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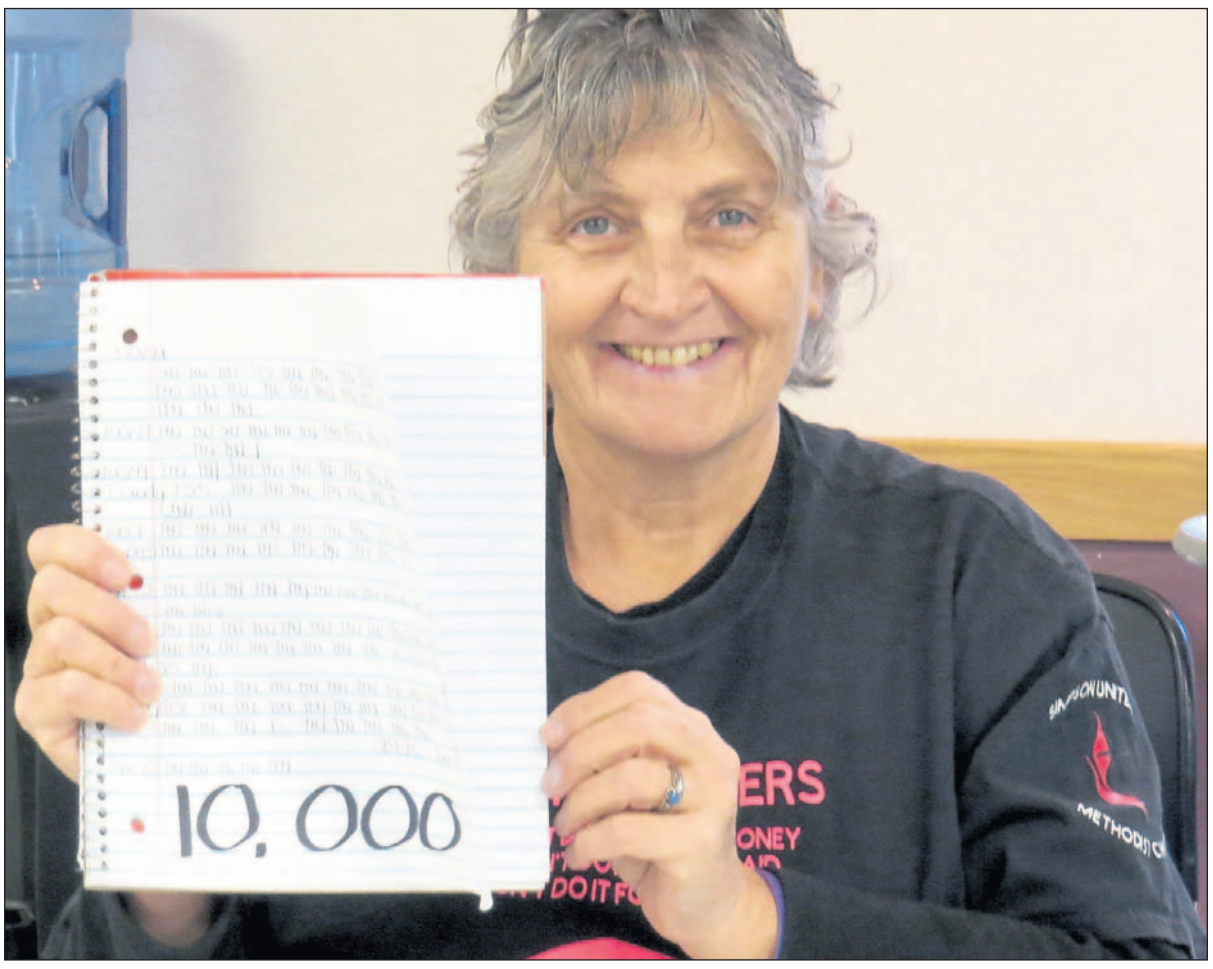


Photos contributed / Kim Roe-Kester

Wendy Hernandez of Simpson United Methodist Church in Bangor holds up a notebook denoting the 10,000th face mask created by a dozen women from the church. The women first began making masks in March and reached the 10,000 mark earlier this month.

10,000 masks made

Bangor church group has been stitching away since March

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

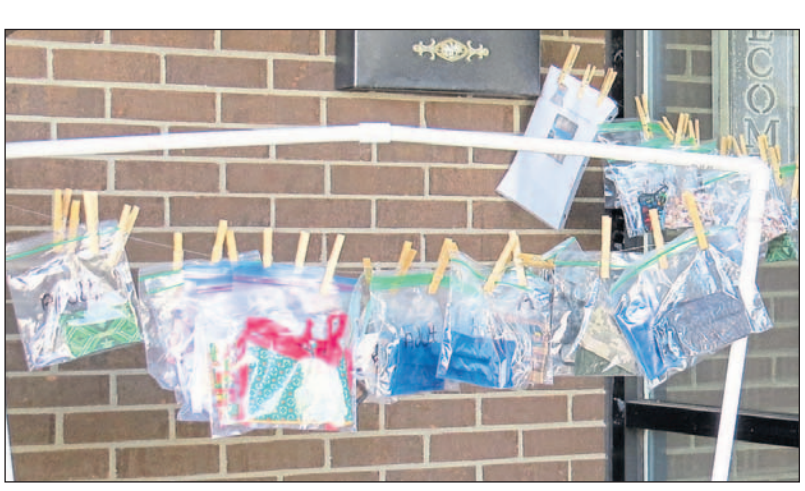
BANGOR — Like many church pastors, the Rev. Dr. Mona Joslyn of Simpson United Methodist Church regularly visits congregants staying in hospitals and nursing homes.

Since March, however, she hasn't been able to do so due to restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Not being able to tend to hospital patients and nursing home residents frustrated her, but it also gave her an idea – form a group at church to make face masks.

"She wanted to do something with this new pandemic," said Kim Roe-Kester, one of the group's members. "She knew how to sew, so she and a few of the parishioners started sewing at home. They would hang the finished masks outside the entryway to the church so that anyone that needed them could get them, free of charge."

That was in March. By mid-April, most of the masks were gone.



Starting in March the group hung their masks, free of charge, on a clothesline at Simpson United Methodist Church for people who need them.

"The masks were flying off the clips, almost faster than they could hang them out," Kester said.

Recognizing the shortage of available face masks in the community, Joslyn expanded the group to include more seamstresses.

"The word got out and others started helping with making them," Kester said. "On April 27th we started sewing in the community room of the church. ... There are about 12 of us in the group, 10 regularly come and work in the community room, and two work from home and bring masks in weekly."

Earlier this month, the group of seamstresses reached a milestone by producing their 10,000th mask.

"We make several styles and sizes from children's up to X-large," Kester said. "The ones we have the hardest time with are the men's masks. They're not too keen on the brighter colors. We were ecstatic with this last donation of fabric when we saw the dark-colored fabric that was included."

When they first began making face masks, the seamstresses donated

See **MASKS**, page A6

SOUTH HAVEN

City OKs $1M plan for upgrades at South Beach

Concession, restroom area would get major overhaul if grant money can be secured

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — After seeking input from area residents, South Haven city officials have put their stamp of approval on a conceptual plan to upgrade the concessions and restroom area at South Beach.

City council members voted unanimously on Monday to approve the plan developed by Edgewater Resources of St. Joseph. They did so after receiving a positive recommendation from the city parks commission.

It's not known if or when the restrooms/concessions project will get underway, but putting together a conceptual plan, based on public input, is the first step toward possibly obtaining grant funding from the state, according to City Manager Kate Hosier.

Edgewater Resources estimates improvements will cost between $940,000-$1.34 million, depending on the materials and furnishings used to complete the project.

The plan calls for renovation and expansion of the existing restroom building and construction of a new permanent concessions/beach shop building on the site of the existing pavilion, which has limited seating.

The design and choice of improvements were based primarily on a public visioning session conducted in July, and an online public survey administered by city staff in October.

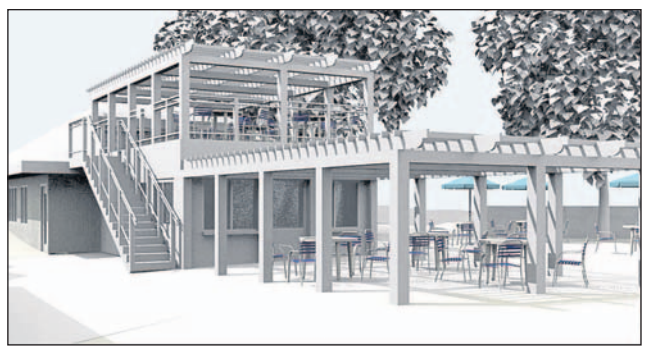
Some of the comments from those surveyed include:

- More toilet stalls and changing area
- Hand wash stations near the concessions
- Need places to change, more restroom stalls, family restrooms, showers and feet washers
- A cafe with eating area would be great
- More picnic tables
- Changing rooms separate from bathroom stalls
- I would like to see a larger structure with a second story that could be rented for special events
- I go by this structure (pavilion) almost daily – it is rarely used. It's dark and uninviting.

Over the years, the beach's restroom has been described by users as dark, damp, poorly ventilated and too small for the amount of people who use it during summer months. If the project moves forward, the existing facility will be upgraded and six new family restrooms will be added to the east side of the building, facing the splash pad.

The new concessions facility and beach shop will replace the two narrow angular ones that have been in use for the past several years.

See **BEACH**, page A6



Contributed architectural rendering / Edgewater Resources

This architectural rendering shows what an upgraded South Beach concessions and restroom area could look like. The shop and concessions area would occupy space currently used for the pavilion. A patio with second-story seating is part of the proposal, though grant money is needed before any construction could start.

Trump threatens to torpedo COVID relief bill with new demands

Andrew Harnik / AP

A view of the White House on Tuesday. President Donald Trump took to Twitter on Tuesday evening to criticize Congress' massive pandemic relief package.

By KEVIN FREKING, ANDREW TAYLOR and LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump late Tuesday threatened to torpedo Congress' massive pandemic relief package in the midst of a raging pandemic and deep economic uncertainty, suddenly demanding changes fellow Republicans have opposed.

Trump assailed the bipartisan $900 billion package in a video he tweeted out Tuesday night and suggested he may not sign it. He said the bill would deliver too much money to foreign countries, but not enough to Americans.

The bill provides for a $600 payment to most Americans, but Trump said he is asking Congress to amend the bill and "increase the ridiculously low $600 to $2,000, or $4,000 for a couple. I am also asking Congress to get rid of the wasteful and unnecessary items from this legislation and to send me a suitable bill."

The relief package was part of a hard-fought compromise bill that includes $1.4 trillion to fund government agencies through September and contains other end-of-session priorities such as money for cash-starved transit systems, an increase in food stamp benefits and about $4 billion to help other nations provide a COVID-19 vaccine for their people.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi quickly responded to Trump's tweet with one of her own, all but daring Trump's Republican allies in Congress to meet the president's demand for far higher payments. "At last, the President has agreed to $2,000," she tweeted. "Democrats are ready to bring this to the Floor this week by unanimous consent. Let's do it!"

But Republicans have been reluctant to spend more on pandemic relief and only agreed to the big year-end package as time dwindled for a final deal. And Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Senate Democratic leader, said "Trump needs to sign the bill to help people and keep the government open," and Congress would step up for more aid after.

Nevertheless, Pelosi was expected to put Trump's proposal forward Thursday for a vote.

The Senate cleared the huge package by a 92-6 vote after the House approved it by another lopsided vote, 359-53. Those votes totals would be enough to override a veto should Trump decide to take that step.

See **TRUMP**, page A6

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 26 Low 15

6 50645 49085 0

Trump pardons 15, commutes 5 sentences

By COLLEEN LONG, KEVIN FREKING and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday pardoned 15 people, including Republicans who were strong and early supporters, a 2016 campaign official ensnared in the Russia probe and former government contractors convicted in a 2007 massacre in Baghdad.

Trump also commuted the sentences of five others. While it is not unusual for presidents to grant clemency on their way out the door, Trump has made clear that he has no qualms about intervening in the cases of friends and allies whom he believes have been treated unfairly. Despite speculation, though, not on the list were members of Trump's own family, his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani and the president himself.

His actions in his final weeks in office show a president who is wielding his executive power to reward loyalists and others who he believes have been wronged by a legal system he sees as biased against him and his allies. And it comes as he continues to dispute his election loss with increasingly conspiratorial claims about voting fraud despite no evidence to support it.

Those pardoned included former Republican Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and Chris Collins of New York. Trump also commuted the sentence of former Rep. Steve Stockman of Texas and pardoned a current state representative, Phil Lyman of Utah, who led an ATV protest through restricted federal lands.

Collins, the first member of Congress to endorse Trump to be president, was sentenced to two years and two months in federal prison after admitting he helped his son and others dodge $800,000 in stock market losses when he learned that a drug trial by a small pharmaceutical company had failed.

Hunter was sentenced to 11 months in prison after pleading guilty to stealing campaign funds and spending the money on everything from outings with friends to his daughter's birthday party.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said the pardons for Hunter and Collins were granted after "the request of many members of Congress." She noted that Hunter served the nation in the U.S. Marines and saw combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the group announced Tuesday night were four former government contractors convicted in a 2007 massacre in Baghdad that left more a dozen Iraqi civilians dead and caused an international uproar over the use of private security guards in a war zone.

Supporters of Nicholas Slatten, Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard, the former contractors at Blackwater Worldwide, had lobbied for pardons, arguing that the men had been excessively punished in an investigation and prosecution they said was tainted by problems and withheld exculpatory evidence. All four were serving lengthy prison sentences.

Trump also announced pardons for allies ensnared in the Russia investigation. One was for George Papadopoulos, his 2016 campaign adviser whose conversation unwittingly helped trigger the Russia investigation that shadowed Trump's presidency for nearly two years. He also pardoned Alex van der Zwaan, a Dutch lawyer who was sentenced to 30 days in prison for lying to investigators during special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

VIRAL QUESTIONS

Can employers require COVID-19 vaccination?

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Can employers make COVID-19 vaccination mandatory? Yes, with some exceptions.

Experts say employers can require employees to take safety measures, including vaccination. That doesn't necessarily mean you would get fired if you refuse, but you might need to sign a waiver or agree to work under specific conditions to limit any risk you might pose to yourself or others.

"Employers generally have wide scope" to make rules for the workplace, said Dorit Reiss, a law professor who specializes in vaccine policies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law. "It's their business."

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has allowed companies to mandate the flu and other vaccines, and has also indicated they can require COVID-19 vaccines.

There are exceptions; for example, people can request exemptions for medical or religious reasons.

And even though employers can require vaccinations, there are reasons they might not want to.

Tracking compliance would be an administrative burden, said Michelle S. Strowhiro, an employment adviser and lawyer at McDermott Will & Emery. Employers would also have to manage exemption requests – not to mention legal claims that might arise.

As a result, many employers will likely strongly encourage vaccination without requiring it, Strowhiro said.

LOTTERIES

Tuesday drawings

Michigan

Poker Lotto
JD-3C-2H-3H-5S
Midday Daily 3
9-6-2
Midday Daily 4
2-5-1-6
Daily 3
7-8-4
Daily 4
3-9-2-5
Fantasy 5
07-10-19-21-27
Keno
02-04-13-15-18-19-20-22-26-32-36-42-43-44-53-59-60-64-66-69-74-77
Mega Millions jackpot
$330 million
Powerball jackpot
$321 million

Monday drawings

Indiana

Cash 5
02-11-24-34-37
Estimated jackpot
$821,000
Cash4Life
12-29-32-38-60, Cash Ball: 1
Quick Draw Midday
03-08-11-13-14-16-17-22-27-32-46-51-53-54-59-60-62-74-76-79, BE: 62
Daily Three-Midday
3-8-5, SB: 4
Daily Three-Evening
8-3-8, SB: 1
Daily Four-Midday
1-6-7-5, SB: 4
Daily Four-Evening
9-0-2-1, SB: 1
Quick Draw Evening
01-04-16-18-25-26-31-34-36-41-44-47-48-57-58-63-64-67-75-76, BE: 4

Illinois

Lotto
01-14-18-20-27-28, Extra Shot: 4
Estimated jackpot
$2.3 million
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
12-17-23-41-42
Pick Three-Midday
1-1-1, Fireball: 2
Pick Three-Evening
0-0-6, Fireball: 2
Pick Four-Midday
7-0-2-7, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Evening
1-1-8-6, Fireball: 8
Lucky Day Lotto
08-33-35-36-42

– The Associated Press

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Samuel Corum / Getty Images / TNS

The White House is shown as the sun sets on Dec. 9 in Washington, D.C. A special cleaning crew will disinfect the White House during inauguration ceremonies for Joe Biden on Jan. 20, a big task amid a pandemic.

White House to get scrubbed down as Biden gets sworn in

By PHIL GALEWITZ
Kaiser Health News (TNS)

It was a down-in-the-mud presidential campaign, but the dirtiest part comes on Inauguration Day.

As Joe Biden lifts his right hand to take the oath of office at noon on Jan. 20 at the Capitol, a team of specially trained cleaners will be lifting their hands to disinfect the White House.

The executive mansion will get a deep clean after two COVID-19 outbreaks this fall led to President Donald Trump and members of his staff and family becoming infected.

The departure of one president and the arrival of another is always a fast but highly synchronized behind-the-scenes ballet by White House staff members and moving crews.

But this year is different. The shift means more than rearranging the Oval Office and putting new clothes in bedroom closets: It means a top-to-bottom disinfection amid a pandemic. Biden, who at 78 is taking office as the oldest president in U.S. history, is at high risk of complications from the virus.

So, the General Services Administration will oversee a thorough cleaning and disinfection of every doorknob, toilet handle, light switch, stair railing, telephone, elevator button, computer keyboard and other objects inside the 55,000-square-foot mansion at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

But can such a large building get fully clean in just five or six hours?

Experts say that should not be a problem with a large enough team and preparation time.

K. Mark Wiencek, lead microbiologist for South Carolina-based Contec Inc., which sells cleaning supplies to hospitals, said GSA cleaners should focus on the rooms last occupied by the Trump staff, since the virus can't survive long on surfaces. Cleaning crews, he added, should wear masks and gloves to protect themselves and not introduce any germs.

He recommended replacing the air filters and using fogging and spraying disinfectant to kill viruses.

The GSA said it is already cleaning the White House East Wing and West Wing offices daily with disinfectant.

GSA officials said they expect no difficulties in making the transition and pledged that all furniture and surfaces would be cleaned. "GSA will thoroughly clean and disinfect the building spaces between the administrations and ensure that everything is up to standard," a spokesperson said in a statement.

It's vital that cleaners leave the cleaning chemicals on surfaces a full 10 minutes before wiping them down, said O.P. Almaraz, a disaster relief expert in West Covina, California, and president of Allied Restoration, which has cleaned dozens of businesses after suspected COVID-19 cases.

"With a large enough crew, a professional disinfection company could apply disinfectants to the entire White House in six hours," he said. It's important, he explained, that the crew pay "special attention to points that may be touched often, like tabletops, door handles and light switches."

As long as cleaners have an organized plan for each room, Almaraz doesn't see them having trouble getting done before the Bidens move in at the end of the day.

Sheldon Yellen, CEO of Michigan-based Belfor Property Restoration, said cleaning crews need to be rehearsed and in fully ventilated suits to clean the White House in one afternoon.

"It's a level 3 clean," he said, noting the building needs the most intensive service because of confirmed COVID-19 cases. That means disposing of anything that doesn't have to stay for the Bidens, including pillows and bedsheets. He said books need to be wiped down, not just on the binding but all sides. He recommended cleaning the ductwork and ventilation systems as well.

Jack Shevel, co-founder of San Diego disinfection company Zappogen, said that because COVID-19 spreads by airborne transmission, it is best to disinfect using an electrostatic sprayer or fogger filled with a disinfectant designed to kill airborne pathogens. That covers a large area more easily than just wiping surfaces.

"To truly disinfect all those rooms quickly and thoroughly, they should be sprayed with a fine micron mist that can reach all crevices and surfaces evenly," he said.

Still, the White House cleaners must be careful to remove paintings, antiques and other valuable items before spraying with disinfectant, said Ernesto Abel-Santos, professor of biochemistry at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Those items should be cleaned by hand.

Feds sue Walmart over role in opioid crisis

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department sued Walmart on Tuesday, accusing it of fueling the nation's opioid crisis by pressuring its pharmacies to fill even potentially suspicious prescriptions for the powerful painkillers.

The civil complaint filed points to the role Walmart's pharmacies may have played in the crisis by filling opioid prescriptions and Walmart's own responsibility for the allegedly illegal distribution of controlled substances to the pharmacies at the height of the opioid crisis. Walmart operates more than 5,000 pharmacies in its stores around the country.

The Justice Department alleges Walmart violated federal law by selling thousands of prescriptions for controlled substances that its pharmacists "knew were invalid," said Jeffrey Clark, the acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's civil division.

Federal law required Walmart to spot suspicious orders for controlled substances and report those to the Drug Enforcement Administration, but prosecutors charge the company didn't do that.

"Walmart knew that its distribution centers were using an inadequate system for detecting and reporting suspicious orders," said Jason Dunn, the U.S. attorney in Colorado. "For years, Walmart reported virtually no suspicious orders at all. In other words, Walmart's pharmacies ordered opioids in a way that went essentially unmonitored and unregulated."

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Benton Harbor faces CDBG money woes

City at risk of missing out on federal funds

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — The future of Benton Harbor's Community Development Block Grant money hangs in the balance, with city commissioners Monday approving an operational plan and budget, but not the funds needed to implement it.

The federal CDBG money is handled by the city's Community and Economic Development Department and comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This year, the city received $426,496 in CDBG money.

Director Alex Little told city commissioners that $200,000 is needed from the city's general fund to implement the proposed plan, which calls for his department to grow from two to four full-time employees, along with a part-time worker.

But commissioners said the city doesn't have enough money to pay that cost. They approved the plan and budget, but did not approve taking $200,000 out of the city's general fund to pay for it.

Mayor Marcus Muhammad said the city will implement the plan over time as money becomes available.

"Although at this time we do not have the funding, in order to make the department sustainable long term, this is necessary," he said.

Little, who was hired as director in October, said the extra staff is needed to satisfy HUD's requirement to have enough people to run the program. He said the city received a letter from HUD in 2018 placing the city on "high risk" status, in part due to inadequate staffing and program oversight. The letter cited monitoring reviews in 2014 and 2016 to support this problem.

"If you understand how the federal government works, this is a step in a process where you lose the ability to control your own program," Little said.

He said another problem is high staff turnover. The department has had three directors since 2018, with gaps when there was no director.

Little said that HUD wants to know if the city can successfully manage the program.

Another problem cited in the letter is that the city lacks written policies and procedures.

Little said the city has a lot to lose if commissioners don't take action.

He said that the city has about $1 million that it can use right now in CDBG funds, with some of it about to lapse.

"What lapsing means in the federal system is that once that occurs, even HUD doesn't have the option to give it back to you," he said.

Muhammad said the plan needs to be approved and resubmitted to HUD before the $1 million can be spent.

City commissioners said they have been told for years that the city's CDBG program is in trouble.

In the fall of 2018, CDBG money was used to fix the streets in the city's Buss Public Housing Complex as part of the plan to spend $1.1 million in CDBG money not used between 2014 and 2017.

During the meeting, City Manager Ellis Mitchell said they realize the money to support the budget isn't in the general fund right now. He said Little did a deep dive to figure out exactly what is needed to run the department properly.

"This is a number one priority to make sure we keep the money, to be able to spend the money, plus, to be in line to get future monies," he said. "If the city loses the community development block grant money, believe me, it's going to be very difficult to ever get it back."

Little said adding to the problem is that his department oversees not only the CDBG money, but the economic development in the city, which includes the growing marijuana business.

Benton Harbor is designated as an entitlement community that receives CDBG money directly from HUD. Non-entitlement communities compete for HUD money through the states.

Muhammad said that if the city's HUD funding drops below $300,000 annually, then it loses its status as an entitlement city.

"This is the only federal money that's coming directly to the citizens of Benton Harbor," he said. "... We have to make this department sustainable, and that's what HUD wants to see."

When contacted after the meeting, Little said yet another problem is that his office at city hall was flooded. He said he's still going through files to figure out what can be salvaged.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Contributed photo / Tom Renner

A South Haven Department of Public Works employee coats the surface of the South Haven ice rink recently. The rink normally opens the day before Thanksgiving each year. However, its opening was delayed due to restrictions to control the spread of COVID-19.

Let the skating begin

But only in South Haven; SJ facility still closed

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — As the holiday season gets underway in the beginning of December, it's not unusual to see skaters at South Haven's outdoor ice rink. But that wasn't the case this year due to state restrictions in place to slow the spread of COVID-19.

But starting Tuesday the rink opened to the public, thanks to the state decision on Friday to ease coronavirus restrictions that previously closed outdoor entertainment venues, such as ice rinks, that attract crowds.

Upon hearing the news, city officials made the decision to reopen the rink. However, there will be several precautions in place:

- Face masks must always be worn, on and off the ice
- Rink capacity is limited to 20 skaters on the ice at any given time
- Spectators and skaters are expected to stay 6 feet apart

"The city is taking all necessary precautions to ensure a safe environment for staff, residents, and visitors during the 2020-2021 skate season," said South Haven Downtown Development Director and Customer Service Director Sue Brock in a news release.

Even with the restrictions, a silver lining exists: The city is letting people skate free of charge. However, concessions and skate rentals will not be available this year, due to ongoing restrictions.

"Skaters are being encouraged to limit their skate time to 30-minute intervals so that during this year's limited capacity, everyone can enjoy the rink," Brock said. "It is recommended to dress accordingly for all weather conditions, as the indoor rink office will be closed.

During this holiday season, open skate hours will be Monday-Sunday, 3 p.m.–8 p.m. After the holidays, open skate hours will shift to Wednesday–Sunday, 3p.m.–8 p.m., beginning Jan. 4. An ice rink attendant will be present during open skate times to ensure all ice rink rules and MDHHS guidelines are followed.

"Bear in mind, the ice rink operations are subject to change, taking in account any modifications associated with the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines or weather conditions," Brock said. "All updates or changes to the ice rink operations will be posted to the city's website and Facebook page."

Howard Ice Arena

Meanwhile, the John & Dede Howard Ice Arena in St. Joseph remains closed through Jan. 15, at least.

City Manager John Hodgson said that's because the rink in St. Joseph is considered an indoor venue, and restrictions were only lifted for outdoor rinks.

Hodgson said the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Order defines indoors as "within a space that is fully or partially enclosed on the top, and fully or partially enclosed on two or more contiguous sides." Further, Hodgson said, despite the open wall along Napier Avenue and the alley to the west, the order states that "any part of that space that is more than eight feet from an open side is indoors."

City officials said the ice arena is prepared to open as soon as emergency orders are lifted. Check the city website, www.sjcity.com, for updates.

Official apologizes over handling of chief's exit

KALAMAZOO (AP) — The city manager in Kalamazoo publicly apologized after acknowledging that the public safety chief didn't retire but was fired.

City Manager Jim Ritsema said disclosures of Karianne Thomas' departure in September didn't tell the whole story.

"I will strive for more clarity in my communications going forward," Ritsema told city commissioners Monday.

He said trust is a "key ingredient" of city government.

Ritsema said he didn't want to harm Thomas' reputation. She was ousted after much criticism about how police handled protests related to racial injustice.

"Following the protests during the summer, I believed Chief Thomas' ability to lead had been compromised, and it was in her and in the city's best interest to part ways," Ritsema said.

He said he didn't have cause to fire her so Thomas was dismissed without cause. She received severance pay of $150,000.

Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin said trust in city government might take a hit.

"Accountability, transparency, trust – all of that – is just words unless you put it into action," Griffin said. "It is not being perfect. It is not about being wrong. It's about what you do when you're in those situations."

Thomas was eligible for full retirement after serving 27 years with the public safety department.

Young man fatally shot in Benton Harbor

Victim may have been caught in crossfire

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — An 18-year-old man died Monday after being shot in Benton Harbor.

Benton Harbor Public Safety Deputy Director Michael Clark said police believe the man was an innocent person caught in the crossfire as other people shot at each other. The victim's name has not been released.

The shooting occurred on a city street in broad daylight.

Police were called at 1:40 p.m. to the 800 block of Ogden Avenue and surrounding streets on numerous reports of gunshots. While en route, police learned that an 18-year-old man had been taken to Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph, where he died.

Clark said early in the investigation police learned that the man had been shot as people exchanged gunfire, and police do not believe he was the intended target.

Police are seeking suspects and trying to determine a motive for the shooting. Clark said that during the ongoing investigation, several arrests were made on existing warrants unrelated to the shooting incident. Police are withholding their names pending further investigation, Clark said.

He said police at this time are not releasing information, such as where the deceased man was from and whether he was walking or in a vehicle passing by. He said more information will be released today.

Anyone who witnessed the shooting or who has information about it is asked to call the Tipline at 927-0293, or Crime Stoppers at 800-342-STOP. Or, information can be submitted anonymously via the TIP411 application available in the app store. Enter Benton Harbor DPS.

The Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety was assisted by Michigan State Police and the Berrien County Sheriff's Office.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

IN BRIEF

Berrien adds 5 COVID-19 deaths Tuesday

As Spectrum Health Lakeland reported its lowest number of COVID patients since early November on Tuesday, COVID deaths continued to mount in Berrien County.

Five additional deaths were recorded in the county on Tuesday, bringing the county's COVID death toll 157. All of the deaths were people over the age of 60.

The hospital was treating 36 COVID patients Tuesday morning. That's down from 65 last Tuesday and 66 the Tuesday before that.

In addition, Berrien County recorded 55 new COVID-19 cases and 197 new recoveries on Tuesday. This brought the number of active cases in the county down to 2,807. That's compared to 3,623 last Tuesday.

Cass County recorded two deaths on Tuesday, bringing the county's death toll to 41. No new deaths were recorded in Van Buren County.

Cass County added 14 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday. Van Buren County's case numbers were adjusted to show nine less cases than reported on Monday. Health officials have said sometimes cases, and deaths, can be reassigned to other counties based on a resident being tested, or dying, in a different county than where they live.

BH commissioners approve Citizen Review Board

BENTON HARBOR — Benton Harbor city commissioners Monday unanimously approved creating a five-member citizen review board, which will provide oversight to the city's Public Safety Department.

It is also expected to increase transparency and improve communication between the community and public safety officers, who are cross-trained to serve as police officers and firefighters.

City commissioners will appoint members to the board, which will act in an advisory capacity to the city commission.

Public Safety Director Dan McGinnis thanked commissioners for approving the CRB, which he said is the first board of its kind locally.

"As you know, we strive to be the preeminent law enforcement agency in Berrien County," he said. "This helps us do that, so I appreciate that."

The Herald-Palladium Editorial Board:
DAVID HOLGATE Publisher
DAVE BROWN Managing Editor
DALE BREWER Local News Editor
KATIE KRAWCZAK Design Editor

Merry Christmas, wherever you are

Robert Burgess
Opinion Maker

As the calendar year ends, many of us are glad that 2020 will soon be history. The year has put a damper for many on the Christmas season. Some medical experts are warning us to put off our normal holiday gatherings and in great foreboding have suggested that the winter ahead of us will be the darkest months of the COVID-19 pandemic. They may sound like Scrooge or the Grinch, but it is likely for our own good.

For many, the Christmas season is a lonely time of year. No doubt, the pandemic has made it a challenging time for many more including for more than 310,000 families who lost loves ones this year or for the millions who are now unemployed and facing near term economic uncertainty. Remember too that many service men and women are stationed overseas far from loved ones, some serving in dangerous areas of the world.

When I was a young man while serving in the United States Navy, the two Christmas seasons I spent in Japan were the most challenging. According to Wikipedia, fewer than two percent of Japanese are Christians. They are primarily adherents of Buddhism or Shinto. At the time I was in Japan there was little to remind a sailor far from home that it was the Christmas season. The Japanese do celebrate their ancestors on New Year's. It is a solemn celebration nothing like our bawdy New Year's gatherings.

No doubt things have changed in the four and half decades since I left Japan, I understand now that Christmas is a minor celebration in Japan these days with some even exchanging Christmas presents. From what I have read recently, a Christmas dinner tradition that started in Japan when I was there in the 1970s has gained more popularity. Instead of a Christmas turkey dinner, many Japanese now order KFC chicken dinners for the holiday. A finger licking good Christmas.

My first Christmas in Japan, I "celebrated" by going to one of the dive bars just outside the Naval station gates and ordering a Kirin or Asahi beer. My second year in Japan, I do remember venturing to Bobby McGees disco in the Roppongi night club district of Tokyo to watch young Japanese dancing to popular music of the day like KC and the Sunshine Band or Van McCoy.

For our service men and women overseas, God bless you and Merry Christmas. You may be thousands of miles away from home, but you are not forgotten this holiday season, at least not by this veteran.

This year may be a challenging one. But maybe with the advent of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and maybe soon additional ones, we can hope that next year's Christmas season will be much brighter. In the meantime, we can keep ourselves, our friends, neighbors and family safe by wearing face masks, keeping at least six feet social distancing, and washing our hands frequently.

Maybe we can also make Christmas a little merrier for some members of our community. Before year end, we can donate to a worthy non-profit like the Salvation Army, Emergency Shelter Services, the OutCenter, the Soup Kitchen or to a local food pantry affiliated with Feeding America. Perhaps, we can order takeout at one of our favorite local restaurants to help support their business operations while indoor dining has been suspended. When we visit our local supermarket or convenience store for last minute Christmas shopping, the clerks may not be able to see us smiling at them through our masks but maybe we can be especially patient and polite while waiting in the checkout line.

Also, let us not forget the nurses, doctors, and other employees at Spectrum Lakeland, Bronson South Haven, or Borgess Lee Dowagiac. Let us remind our representatives in Lansing and Washington that they must do what they can to ensure that hospital workers get the PPE they need to remain safe. Our representatives must work harder to ensure that life savings vaccines are promptly distributed to protect front line medical workers.

Yes, I am sure our medical professional would also appreciate it if we wear masks, social distance, and practice good hand washing hygiene. I am sure they would rather see us at a Lake Michigan beach this coming summer than at their hospital this winter. The feeling is mutual.

A safe and Merry Christmas to all.

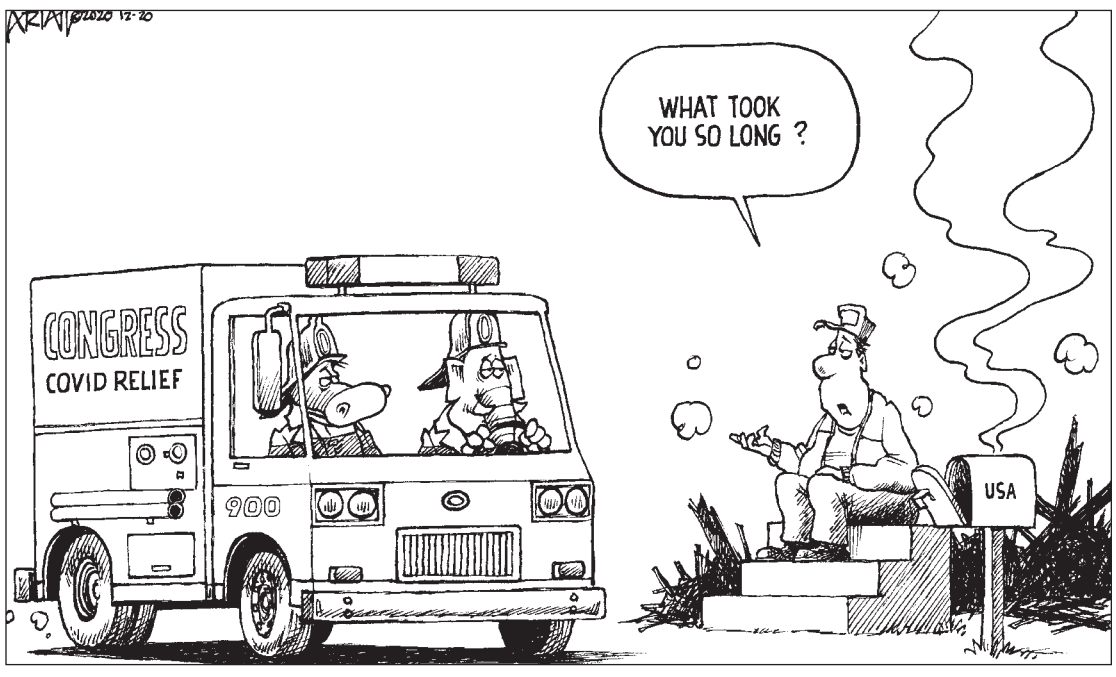
Robert L. Burgess, a Michigan native, has lived in Lincoln Township since 1993. Email: robert_l_burgess@sbcglobal.net.

LETTERS

From the Class of '70: A call to be involved

Editor,

Growing up in St. Joe we never thought of ourselves as being privileged; our friends were just normal middle-class. After graduating from high school and stepping out of the immediate community, the inequalities between St. Joe, Benton Harbor and in the world in general, were glaring. Several years ago a classmate, Dave Knight, and several other photographers did a photo essay and book on St. Joe and Benton Harbor over two days. The images in "Twin Cities 48 hours" graphically shows the difference, and also illustrates the common thread of humanity that ties our communities together.



Fifty years after collecting a high school diploma, some of us from the SJHS Class of '70, decided to start a scholarship fund that, as a legacy, would reflect a wider view of our community. Although many of us support our alma mater through the St. Joseph Schools Foundation, there is a recognition among many that in helping the broader community, we are helping our "own" community. Our education was privileged; for everyone, a good education should be a right. Those less fortunate than ourselves, does not mean those are less capable. The goal of our scholarship is to benefit a graduating senior female from BHHS. It is only one person each year, but one individual can make a difference. You can organize your own educational alliance and start a scholarship fund, too.

Lisa Cripps-Downey and her capable team at Berrien Community Foundation provide the structure and guidance to establish a scholarship fund for your community group. As an individual, you might find an existing fund that would reflect your own values or interest that you can piggy-back on. Open your wallet, celebrate being healthy, alive and be generous; donations are all 100 percent tax deductible.

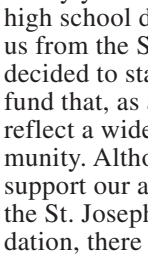
The Class of '70 is a community of 300+ individuals and the 50-year milestone has brought us together again. As individuals, some have had the opportunity to live and work around the world, and many have seen their own children graduate from local high schools. We are as different as we are individuals and we are tied together as a single community. We are all a part of the community easily defined by the distribution of this newspaper.

There are many good causes in our greater community and we ask you to support at least one. Whether you are from the Class of '70 or 2007, from Coloma or Lakeshore, give to your local educational fund this year and keep our community strong.

Mark Scott
Stonington, Conn.
Reid Jaeger
Ann Arbor

Can Biden find harmony in our dissonance?

E.J. Dionne



When John Lynch was governor of New Hampshire, his approval ratings were often stratospheric – hitting 73 percent in one 2008 poll. Lynch, a Democrat, joked at the time that his wife tried to make sure his head didn't get too big by observing: "73 is a C. What's so great about that?"

President-elect Joe Biden would love to earn that kind of C.

There is an obsession in our deeply polarized country with how we might come together. Many of the popular remedies are of a touchy-feely sort: Listen to each other better, spend time with people we disagree with, read those whose views differ from ours.

But our polarization is about more than sentiments. And as a practical matter, a president operating in a climate of exceptional partisan mistrust – especially one confronting a Republican Party that resisted even acknowledging that he won the election – can never achieve what Lynch did.

Nonetheless, Biden does have a chance to persuade some of the persuadable and lower the political temperature at least a few degrees.

First, though, he should forget about making everybody happy. Any president who stands for something will incur the disapproval of at least a third of the people. This group will include old-fashioned partisans who, in Biden's case, will never like a Democratic president, and a subset of Trump extremists who will forever regard his presidency as illegitimate.

That crowd will make a lot of noise. Biden and his aides will need to persuade the country – and especially the media – that the chanters and online ranters do not represent "the voice of the people." They are a minority that will never be reconciled to his presidency.

We remember Ronald Reagan's popularity, but he reached his peak approval level of 68 percent in Gallup's surveys only twice. He spent a lot of his time in office in the 40s and 50s. Barack Obama operated within an even narrower range.

Still, this means that, at least in theory, Biden has potential to grow from the 51.3 percent of the vote he won to something around 60 percent, perhaps even a bit higher. Who can he realistically reach out to, and how?

Since his gains this year over Hillary Clinton's 2016 vote were larger among college graduates and suburbanites than among those without college degrees, he needs to continue his outreach to the less privileged – White but also Latino.

He can do this without breaking faith with the Black voters who gave him decisive majorities. They form a big part of the working class and would also respond positively to an emphasis on creating well-paying jobs, lifting incomes and, more broadly, themes built around equal dignity.

In her book "The New Working Class," British writer (and Labour Party political adviser) Claire Ainsley highlights the themes of family, fairness, hard work and decency. They are keys to reducing polarization.

At least some of the voters who stuck with Trump did so because they liked his attacks on globalization, were more worried about the economy than the pandemic, and felt ignored by conventional politicians. Biden needs to push the parts of his program (its "buy American" components, for example) that speak directly to these frustrations.

The fights he chooses to pick with Republicans should be on behalf of proposals (a higher minimum wage, affordable health insurance, more family-friendly workplaces, political reform to reduce big money's role in politics) that make clear who is on the side of the forgotten.

This also means that Biden's laudable emphasis on fighting climate change must constantly come back to the job-creating potential of investments in green technologies. The surest way to block progress is to allow opponents of climate action to cast it as a war by "elitist" environmentalists on workers employed in existing energy sectors.

The larger lesson is that culture wars are at the heart of our polarization. If they become ferocious, they will block Biden's efforts to broaden his reach. As a religious person, Biden – simply by virtue of who he is – can reduce levels of mistrust bred by the growing secular/religious divide, and he needs to handle church-state questions with care. He has a moral obligation to be uncompromising on issues of racial justice, but advocates of change need to find arguments (and, yes, slogans) that appeal across existing lines of division.

And nothing unites like success (one reason Reagan's 1984 "Morning in America" slogan was so effective), so ending the pandemic and restoring the economy should be the Democrats' lodestar.

There is, unfortunately, no vaccine that can bring a sudden end to polarization. But with care, attention and shrewdness, Biden has a chance to give himself room to govern by making us hate each other a little bit less.

E.J. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post.

Christmas lights extinguish 2020's darkness

Kathleen Parker

CAMDEN, S.C. — Let's just say, if it wasn't moving, I've already wrapped a strand of lights around it.

And, apparently, I'm not alone.

Driving around this town, or any other, these days is like visiting the Magic Kingdom, or Oz or, at least, Fifth Avenue at Christmastime. As never before in my memory, the holidays arrived early this year with a feast of lights that suggests as much about our resilience as our collective need for a pick-me-up.

As the worst year in several generations finally grinds to a close, we're celebrating not just the religious season but also the end of a season of darkness. Between a relentless pandemic and a democracy-challenging election, our suddenly brighter world heralds a common pursuit of happier days. What better way to summon new beginnings than by hanging wreaths, tying bows and stringing lights from every bough and rooftop?

Friends from across the country report similar manifestations of local cheer. I haven't flown since March, but I imagine the country looks like it has been invaded by billions of lightning bugs. My own house could serve as a beacon for lost pilots.

Not one for excessive ornamentation, I typically cringe when stores put out holiday decorations early or force Christmas carols on shoppers before the Halloween costumes have been marked down. But this year even I tossed out my own rule against anything Christmas until after Thanksgiving. And I could see through people's windows that I was by no means unusual.

It wasn't long before I was in hot pursuit of the Gaudy and the Glorious. I've swagged the front driveway with garlands, red bows and white lights. A light post is now wreathed and bowed. White lights run the length of the front porch and two Christmas trees flank the front door. Where a tasteful wreath and a couple of poinsettias used to do, I was eyeing the last inflatable Santa during a recent visit to Lowe's, where I had sprinted to buy one of the last trees – and, yes, to buy yet more lights.

Lo and behold, nary a strand for sale. The shelves that just the day before (I go almost daily) had been laden with every sort of décor, and enough candlepower to light a small forest of firs, were now filled with empty red and green storage bins. Just a handful of trees remained.

No white lights. No colored lights. No inflatable Santas. (I was cheered by a story in the Post about a Black Arkansas family that placed an inflatable Black Santa amid their front yard display. When the family received a racist rant in their mailbox attacking their Santa, their neighbors in the mostly White North Little Rock neighborhood of Lakewood began putting up Black Santas on their own yards. Yay, Lakewood. And welcome (almost) to 2021.)

The past year has left us exhausted from sadness, sickness and death, from election denial, hyper-partisanship and mean-spiritedness that has hovered over us like a low-lying toxic cloud. Away and be gone with the hate and the greed. We're worn out and worn down by isolation, shutdowns, quarantines, home schooling, economic turmoil, destroyed businesses and lost jobs – and especially separation from friends and loved ones.

The absence of joy has haunted every household. Loss is our common denominator.

So no wonder we've pulled out the stops. We've become armies of lamplighters, reversing the darkness and spreading the flame of civility and civilization from one front yard to the next, a shared ritual of belief in something greater than ourselves and, closer to home, belief in one another.

These riots of light are about more than just our many December holidays. They're testaments to unity, communion, innocence, hope and joy. One candle lights another and another and another until the sun rises and the trumpets blare. Which is an excessively ornamental way to say that America's spirit of goodness, love and charity is alive and well.

You can see it twinkling everywhere.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post. Email: kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Flint joins $641M deal to settle lawsuits over lead in water

FLINT (AP) — The Flint City Council on Tuesday signed off on its portion of a $641 million settlement with residents of the poor, majority-Black city who were exposed to lead-tainted water.

The city's insurer would kick in $20 million as part of a sweeping deal to settle lawsuits against Flint, the state of Michigan and other parties. Facing a Dec. 31 deadline, the council approved its stake after an hourslong meeting that raised concerns about whether residents were getting shortchanged, MLive.com reported.

"It's something. It's better than nothing," council President Kate Fields said, adding that she hopes a judge looks at a second resolution approved by the council that questions the claims process and the state's share of the agreement.

Most of the money – $600 million – is coming from the state of Michigan. Regulators in then-Gov. Rick Snyder's administration allowed Flint to use water from the Flint River in 2014-15 without treating it to reduce corrosion. Lead in old pipes broke off and flowed through people's taps.

The disaster made Flint a nationwide symbol of governmental mismanagement, with residents of the city of nearly 100,000 lining up for bottled water and parents fearing that their children had suffered permanent harm. The crisis was highlighted by some as an example of environmental injustice and racism.

Experts have blamed the water for an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, which led to at least 12 deaths in the Flint area.

Before the council meeting, lawyers involved in the settlement appeared Monday before a federal judge in Ann Arbor who is overseeing the litigation. U.S. District Judge Judith Levy said preliminary approval could come in January, though she also pledged to hear from residents.

Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley was in favor of the city's participation in the settlement, warning that the city could face major financial stress if it stayed on the sidelines and defended itself against lawsuits.

Separately, state Attorney General Dana Nessel told reporters Tuesday that prosecutors in her office were close to wrapping up a renewed criminal investigation of the Flint water crisis.

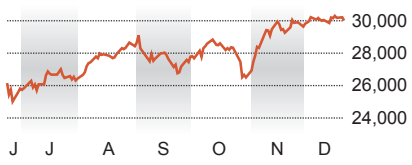
"It should be understood I have not put any pressure on this team to do anything. ... They should do what they (feel) they are ethically obligated to do," Nessel said.

In June 2019, about six months after Nessel took office, Solicitor General Fadwa Hammoud dropped pending criminal cases against eight people and said the investigation was starting from scratch.

Seven people pleaded no contest to misdemeanors under special prosecutor Todd Flood, but their records were eventually scrubbed clean as part of their agreement to cooperate. No contest pleas are not admissions of guilt but are treated as such for the purposes of sentencing.

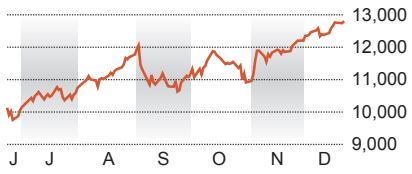
MARKETS

Dec. 22, 2020
Dow Jones industrials
-200.94
30,015.51



Pct. change from previous: -0.67% High 30,200.20 Low 29,992.89

Dec. 22, 2020
Nasdaq composite
65.40
12,807.92



Pct. change from previous: 0.51% High 12,840.57 Low 12,695.31

Amer Elec Power AEP
$81.40 **-.72 -.9%**
▼ **4-wk.** -4.0% ▼ **YTD** -13.9%

Whirlpool WHR
$187.79 **+1.17 +.6%**
▼ **4-wk.** -6.2% ▲ **YTD** +27.3%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.55	28.40	-.61	-2.1	▼	▼	▼
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	81.40	-.72	-0.9	▼	▼	▼
Apple Inc s	AAPL	53.15	137.98	131.88	+3.65	+2.8	▲	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1267.93	1190.19	-2.72	-0.2	▲	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	14.74	40.08	20.48	-.20	-1.0	▼	▼	▲
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	57.60	-.40	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	52.76	-.05	-0.1	▼	▼	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	52.49	50.02	-.35	-0.7	▼	▼	▲
Deere	DE	106.14	272.00	269.26	+1.51	+0.6	▼	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	179.45	170.45	-.24	-0.1	▼	▲	▲
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	114.32	108.98	-2.54	-2.3	▼	▼	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	71.37	41.24	-.71	-1.7	▼	▼	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.23	26.93	-.24	-0.9	▲	▼	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	52.91	38.33	-.26	-0.7	▼	▼	▲
FordM	F	3.96	9.57	8.79	-.14	-1.6	▼	▼	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	10.61	-.16	-1.5	▼	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	140.63	292.95	270.04	-.95	-0.4	▼	▼	▼
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	19.21	14.70	-.29	-1.9	▼	▼	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	15.22	12.13	-.13	-1.1	▼	▼	▲
IDEX	IEX	104.56	199.50	196.39	-1.94	-1.0	▼	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	123.61	+.22	+0.2	▼	▼	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	121.67	-1.88	-1.5	▲	▼	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	157.00	152.72	-.30	-0.2	▼	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	180.67	164.61	+.28	+0.2	▲	▲	▼
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	231.91	211.92	+.25	+0.1	▼	▼	▼
Microsoft	MSFT	132.52	232.86	223.94	+1.35	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	43.83	33.21	-.63	-1.9	▼	▼	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	43.85	-.96	-2.1	▼	▼	▼
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	43.08	36.74	-.64	-1.7	▼	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	146.92	136.55	-.97	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	103.79	95.82	+.58	+0.6	▼	▼	▲
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	21.70	12.59	+.12	+1.0	▼	▼	▲
Stryker	SYK	124.54	242.51	235.29	+.43	+0.2	▼	▼	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	35.60	-.47	-1.3	▼	▼	▲
Target	TGT	90.17	181.17	172.35	+.59	+0.3	▲	▼	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	157.07	149.77	+1.10	+0.7	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	82.00	178.01	174.56	+1.97	+1.1	▼	▲	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	62.15	58.99	-.50	-0.8	▼	▼	▼
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	89.47	-.59	-0.7	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	102.00	153.66	144.20	-1.77	-1.2	▼	▼	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	33.36	59.78	39.27	-1.40	-3.4	▼	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.91	22.37	-.23	-1.0	▼	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	207.30	187.79	+1.17	+0.6	▼	▼	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	56.43	49.19	-2.14	-4.2	▲	▼	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	123.59	117.85	-.51	-0.4	▼	▲	▲

OBITUARIES

Shirley R. van Buskirk

March 1, 1947 – Dec. 14, 2020

Shirley R. (Shriner) van Buskirk, 73, of Purcellville, Va., passed away Monday Dec. 14, 2020, at Waltonwood at Ashburn, in Ashburn, Va.

She was born on March 1, 1947, in Goshen, Ind., a daughter of the late Harold E. and Phyllis (Bemenderfer) Shriner. She was predeceased by her sister, Sharon Jean Williams.

She was a 1965 graduate of Benton Harbor High School and served in AmeriCorp VISTA programs in Hawaii, California and Nevada.

Shirley raised three children, earned her nursing degree, then worked at The Jackson Foundation, hospitals in Washington, D.C. and Maryland, before managing HIV/AIDS research projects at Westat in Rockville, Md. Shirley retired in 2009 and enjoyed nurturing her granddaughter, Mia.

Shirley liked playing Canasta and good pinball machines, attending professional bull riding events and watching Hard Swimmin' Fish performances. She loved the water and beaches, from Hawaii to First Encounter to Baby Beach, Aruba. Family gatherings were her greatest joy.

She is survived by her husband, Daniel F. van Buskirk of Purcellville; two daughters: Keir N. Lewis of Silver Spring, Md., and Erin Lewis Roberts of Broadlands, Va.; one son, Demian Che Lewis of Lovettsville, Va.; two stepsons: James van Buskirk of Madison, Wis., and Thomas van Buskirk of Georgetown, Texas; her granddaughter, Mia Rae Roberts, attending New York University; as well as extended family and many personal friends. She was a nurturing force for all who knew her and she will be dearly missed.

A memorial service will be planned for a future date.

Siegfried J. Siefert

Feb. 16, 1931 – Dec. 11, 2020

Siegfried J. Seifert, 89, of St. Joseph, formerly Chicago Heights, Ill., passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 11, 2020 at The Willows, St. Joseph.

Siegfried was born on Feb, 16, 1931, in Saxony, Germany.

He married the former Ursula Sinkwitz in February of 1951.

Siegfried worked as a tool and die maker at Ford Motor Company for over 30 years. He loved music, arts and was a founding member of the Illiana Jazz Club.

Siegfried is survived by his wife of 69 years, Ursula Seifert; daughters: Viola (Lawrence) Wuske and Victoria (Mark) Thies; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sons: Ingo and Gilbert Seifert.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph. Those wishing to send a condolence online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society – Southwestern Michigan Yeager Family Pet Shelter.

Death notices

Karen Fortune, 73, of Berrien Center died Dec. 20, 2020, at Royalton Manor in St. Joseph. Allred Funeral Home, Berrien Springs, 471-3729.

Catherine E. "Katie" James, 94, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 20, 2020, at Caretel Inns of Lakeland, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Marchele "Shelly" Polashak, 55, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 21, 2020 at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Shirley R. (Shriner) van Buskirk, 73, of Purcellville, Va., formerly of Benton Harbor, died Dec. 14, 2020. Direct Cremation Services, Chantilly, Va.

Richard Nels Wales, 73, of St. Joseph died Dec. 20, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Alexander Aloysius Zyjewski, 91, died in Oviedo, Fla., Dec. 14, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Richard Nels Wales

Dec. 23, 1946 – Dec. 20, 2020

Richard Nels Wales, 73, of St. Joseph passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020, at his home in St. Joseph.

Richard was born on Dec. 23, 1946, in Stambaugh, Mich., to Ernest and Gladys (Shoquist) Wales.

"Dickie" graduated from Iron River High School in 1965, and attended Andrews University.

He met and married Sherry Zummach in 1968, and they enjoyed 52 happy years together.

Richard was a proud veteran who served with the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972.

Richard was the owner of Dick Wales Construction Company for many years. For the past decade, he was the director of construction for The Villas at the River until his retirement in 2016. In his free time, Richard enjoyed the outdoors, especially the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; hunting, fishing, and watching the waves on Lake Michigan. He was an enthusiastic Green Bay Packers fan. However, his greatest joy was his family; and more than anything, his grandchildren.

Richard will be deeply missed by his wife, Sherry Wales; his children: Shawn Wales, and Tina (Charley) Shasky; his grandchildren: Lillian and C.J. Shasky; his brother, Robert (Janine) Wales; his sister-in-law, Janet Wales; and many nieces, nephews, and his many friends.

He is preceded in death by his son, Richard Wales Jr.; his brother, Dennis Wales; and his parents: Ernest and Gladys Wales.

A celebration of Richard's life will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Caring Circle of Lakeland. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

'Charlie Brown' Christmas trees lift school, spirits

By DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

Will Newton / AP

Frank Pichel prepares to close his tree lot after selling out of trees, on Sunday, Dec. 6, in Richmond, Va. The Virginia man has found a way to use Charlie Brown-style Christmas trees to benefit a middle school that provides scholarships for students from an impoverished area.

RICHMOND, Va. — Frank Pichel's Christmas trees will probably never be chosen to light up New York's Rockefeller Center. They look more like the droopy, pitiful tree made famous in the 1965 children's animated classic, "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

But Pichel and his customers don't seem to mind in a year when little seems normal. His trees have been flying off a tiny neighborhood lot since he started selling them last month to raise money for a private middle school that provides scholarships for students from an impoverished area of Richmond.

Customer Camm Tyler, a 36-year-old digital consultant, looked over his uneven tree as he propped it up against a fence and prepared to carry it home.

"This is the perfect 2020 tree," he said.

Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School in Richmond's East End was started in 2009 by a group of local Episcopal parishioners and priests who wanted to help children from low-income families change the trajectory of their lives. The faith-based school is funded entirely by donors and local foundations. All of its 118 students receive full scholarships.

Pichel, a commercial animator and part-time professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, doesn't have children or any other connection to the school. But after donating some athletic equipment to the school a few years ago, he decided he wanted to do something more this year.

He thought of the gangly Virginia pine trees that grow wild on a 66-acre plot of land he owns about two hours west of Richmond. Would people want them for their Christmas trees, he wondered?

His trees are not like the full-branched, perfectly shaped trees many people buy for Christmas. Instead, most are scrawny and uneven-looking.

But Pichel decided to give it a try. At first, he picked out the best-looking trees on his land, thinking they would appeal to more buyers. But then he thought of the sad-looking tree in the Charlie Brown Christmas special. His trees are taller than Charlie Brown's but just as scraggly.

"When people want a Charlie Brown tree, they want the uniqueness and the weirdness. The ones with the fewest branches sold the quickest because they're even more like Charlie Brown's," Pichel said.

Pichel cut down 70 trees, loaded them into the back of his pickup truck and started selling them right after Thanksgiving from a small grassy lot he rented for $1 from two generous owners who wanted to help. He was stunned by the response. He sold 180 trees in three weekends, raising a total of $5,554 for the school. He let people set their own prices; most paid $20 to $50 for a tree.

"Some people just stopped by and said, 'I don't want a tree. I just want to make a donation,'" he said.

Rei Alvarez, an illustrator and musician, said he and his wife loved the nostalgia and "Charlie Brown aesthetic" of Pichel's trees.

"I totally grew up with it, totally," Alvarez said.

He said buying a less-than-perfect tree fits with his desire to avoid the commercialism of Christmas and to teach his 2-year-old son to appreciate the simpler things in life.

"As an artist, I know it's not what you have, it's what you do with it," he said. "You give the few branches you have a little love."

As Alvarez picked out a tree, Mary Jane D'Arville played the theme song from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and traditional Christmas carols on a harp on the sidewalk next to Pichel's lot. D'Arville, who met Pichel at a local dog park, offered to provide Christmas music as soon as she heard what Pichel was doing for the school.

"Those trees, they represent that whole spirit of the Charlie Brown Christmas," she said.

Head of School Mike Maruca said the community enthusiasm for Pichel's trees is attributable to "people wanting to help their neighbor," in this case, the school. He said it's a sentiment that may be stronger this year because of the devastation caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Maybe all of us are feeling a little bit like a Charlie Brown Christmas tree, given 2020," he said. "I don't think we're all feeling like robust, well-proportioned trees. We're all kind of bruised."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

The fourth annual "12 Bars of Christmas" walking tour and scavenger hunt raised more than $3,600 for the Care Friends charity, event organizers said. The event consisted of 27 teams of four to six members who collected money and toured a dozen St. Joseph establishments, acquiring puzzle clues and scavenger items. The event was co-sponsored by L&L Beverage and radio station WIRX. First place for the most money raised was a team led by Nikki Brown. First place in the puzzle competition was a team led by Robert King.

1985 – 35 years ago

A caroling hayride will be Dec. 21 beginning at Lakeside Park, according to the Lakeside Association. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served in the fellowship room of Lakeside Methodist Church following the hayride.

1970 – 50 years ago

St. Joseph city commissioners on Monday night approved a request by the St. Joseph Police Department for the purchase of IBM dictating equipment. The purpose of the IBM equipment, which includes four stationary dictating machines, two portable machines and one transcriber, would be to streamline the operation of police officers making case reports, said City Manager Leland Hill. Police officers would be able to take the portable dictating machines in squad cars and dictate case reports, which could then be transcribed at the police station.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 23, the 358th day of 2020. There are eight days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 23, 1954, the first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard.

On this date:

In 1783, George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retired to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

In 1913, the Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt restored the civil rights of about 1,500 people who had been jailed for opposing the (First) World War.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

In 1962, Cuba began releasing prisoners from the failed Bay of Pigs invasion under an agreement in which Cuba received more than $50 million worth of food and medical supplies.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, non-refueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Scattered Rain	Scattered Rain	Few Snow Showers	Snow Showers Likely	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
49°	23°	26° / 15°	25° / 20°	34° / 27°	39° / 29°

Local Outlook

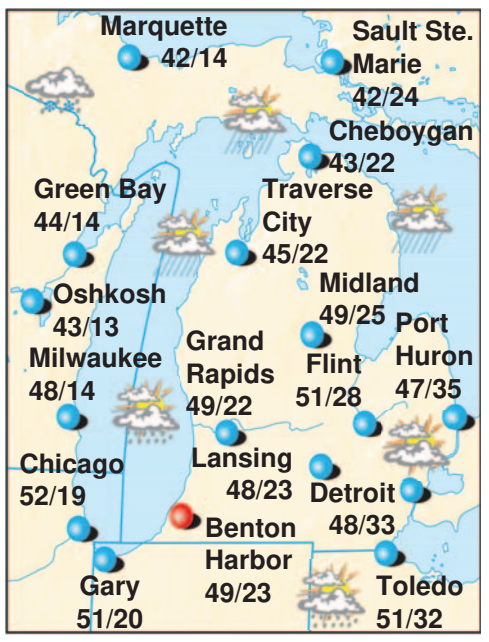
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 70% chance of scattered rain, high temperature of 49°, humidity of 68%. South southeast wind 19 to 26 mph. Expect cloudy skies tonight with a 70% chance of scattered rain, overnight low of 23°. Southwest wind 18 to 21 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	8:11 a.m.
Sunset	5:18 p.m.
Moonrise	1:47 p.m.
Moonset	1:49 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
12/29	1/6	1/13	1/20

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	41°
Low	34°
Normal High	33°
Normal Low	19°
Record High	53° in 2006
Record Low	-9° in 2000

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.21"
Normal for month	1.60"
Year to date	33.24"
Normal Year to date	36.93"

Air Quality

Yesterday	40
Main Offender	Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Sensitive
151-200	Unhealthy

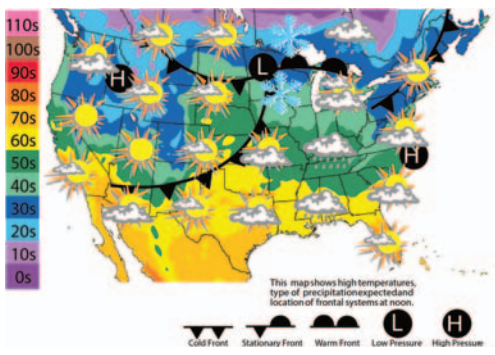
Weather Trivia

What is the name of the high dense clouds that bring steady rainfall?

Answer: Altostratus.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 23, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, S wind 25 to 27 kt, with gusts as high as 34 kt. Showers likely. Waves 2 to 4 ft. Water temperature 41 degrees. Tonight, S wind 21 to 24 kt. Rain showers likely.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

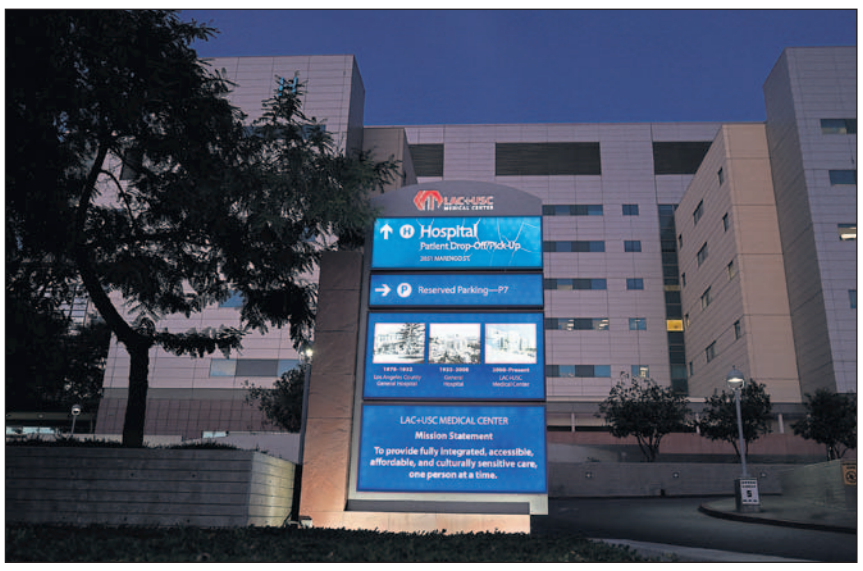
Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with widespread rain and snow, highs in the 40s. South southeast wind 15 to 18 mph. Expect cloudy skies Thursday with widespread snow showers, highs in the 10s and 20s. West southwest wind 11 to 16 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with scattered rain, highs in the 40s and 50s. South southeast wind 19 to 26 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with widespread snow showers, highs in the 20s and 30s. West wind 18 mph.

COVID bill would end 'surprise' medical bills

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press


Hospital
Patient Drop-Off/Pick-Up
Reserved Parking—P7
LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER
Mission Statement
To provide fully integrated, accessible, affordable, and culturally sensitive care, one person at a time.

Damian Dovarganes / AP

The Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center's patient drop-off / pick-up area is seen in Los Angeles on Dec. 16. People with private health insurance will finally see the nasty shock of "surprise" medical bills virtually gone, thanks to the coronavirus compromise reached in Congress.

WASHINGTON — People with private health insurance will see the nasty shock of "surprise" medical bills virtually gone, thanks to the coronavirus compromise passed by Congress.

The charges that can run from hundreds to tens of thousands of dollars come from doctors and hospitals that are outside the network of a patient's health insurance plan. It's estimated that about 1 in 5 emergency visits and 1 in 6 inpatient admissions will trigger a surprise bill.

Although lawmakers of both parties long agreed that the practice amounted to abusive billing, a lobbying war between doctors and insurers had thwarted a compromise, allowing the impasse to become a symbol of dysfunction in Washington.

"This has been a profoundly distressing pocketbook issue for families for years," said Karen Pollitz, a health insurance expert with the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "Some of these bills are onerous, and they all strike people as completely unfair."

The compromise would take patients and their families out of the financial crosshairs by limiting what they can be billed for out-of-network services to a fee that's based on in-network charges. The amount consumers pay would get counted toward their in-network annual deductible.

Insurers and service providers would submit their billing disputes to an independent dispute resolution process, which will follow certain guidelines. The main provisions of the legislation would take effect Jan. 1, 2022.

"Generally speaking, keeping the consumer out of it and forcing the providers to be the ones to settle is a positive," said Eagan Kemp, a policy expert with Public Citizen, a liberal advocacy group. Although states have been moving to curb surprise billing, federal action was needed because states do not have jurisdiction over large employer plans that cover tens of millions of workers and their families.

Key elements of the legislation would:

■ Hold patients harmless from surprise bills stemming from emergency medical care. That would apply if the patient is seen at an out-of-network facility, or if they are treated by an out-of-network clinician at an in-network hospital. In either case, the patient could only be billed based on their plan's in-network rate.

■ Protect patients admitted to an in-network hospital for a planned procedure when an out-of-network clinician gets involved. This can happen when a surgeon is called in to assist in the operating room, or if the anesthesiologist on duty is not part of the patient's plan.

■ Generally require out-of-network service providers to give patients 72-hour notice of their estimated charges. Patients would have to agree to receive out-of-network care for the hospital or doctor to then bill them.

■ Bar air ambulance services from sending patients surprise bills for more than the in-network cost sharing amount. Air ambulance charges have become a bigger problem in states where patients have to travel long distances to get to the best hospitals. However, ground ambulance services will not face the same restrictions, and the legislation only calls for more study of their billing practices.

The compromise legislation involved two years of work from dozens of lawmakers of both parties and key committees, including Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means in the House, and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in the Senate.

Surprise bills hit patients and their families when they are most vulnerable – after a medical emergency or following a complex surgical procedure. Often patients are able to negotiate lower charges by working with their insurers and the medical provider. But the process usually takes months, adding stress and anxiety. Sometimes it doesn't work out and the bills are sent to collection agencies.

MASKS

From page A1

their own supplies. But as face mask requests increased, donations of fabric, elastic, thread, and even money started flowing in.

"We just had a donation from a woman in Casco Township for several big bags of fabric. She and her husband are retiring to their home in Florida and she was downsizing," Kester said. "Others just leave what they can near where we make masks, or make arrangements to drop off fabric during times when we are there. We even had a box of fabric shipped from Wisconsin from a family member of one of the ladies."

The seamstresses have donated masks to not only individuals but schools, businesses and nonprofits that request them.

"The bigger organizations asked if we would be able to do masks for them, some heard by word of mouth, some of the others through an article that was done in a newsletter that was through the Methodist Church," Kester said.

So far, the hand-sewn masks have been donated to Intercare of Bangor, Covert Senior Center, Hartford Food Pantry, HOPE Parent Resource Center in South Haven, Senior Services of Van Buren County, Bangor and Bloomingdale Public Schools, and the Bangor police and fire departments. Some also were delivered to migrant workers and to Bangor businesses.

Still others have made it to the MoTown Mission in Detroit and missionaries in Africa.

With greater availability of personal protection equipment in stores, demand for the homemade face masks has slowed over the past several months.

"When we started, we were sewing six days a week," Kester said. "We're all retired, and once the demand slowed down some, we cut our days down gradually to Tuesdays and Thursdays, and that seems to work for us right now."

BEACH

From page A1

Plans call for a 1,200-square-foot concessions facility and beach shop with counter service, patio seating, stairs leading to rooftop seating, and cafe tables nearby.

Other proposed improvements include two new beach showers, new picnic tables, benches, bike racks, new drinking fountains, two new litter/recycling containers and free-standing changing booths. There will also be paving and bollards to mark the Black River Channel, and reconfiguration of the donor pavers that helped pay for preservation of the South Haven Lighthouse in 2016.

South Beach underwent a number of improvements in 2012 as part of phase 1 of the South Beach Waterfront Park project. However, upgrades to the restrooms and concessions area, which were built in the early 2000s, were put on hold to keep costs down.

Biden hopes virus deal is glimpse of future bipartisanship

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For President-elect Joe Biden, Washington's year-end burst of deal-making brought renewed hope for a productive, successful first 100 days in office.

The city's fever broke, at least momentarily, as longtime combatants finally forged a COVID-19 relief deal that carried with it dozens of smaller bills, offering proof that Capitol Hill's damaged systems and norms can still produce meaningful legislation – at least when backed up against the wall.

Most of Biden's 36 years in the Senate came in an era when Washington functioned far better. As president he will be seeking to restore at least the veneer of good faith and bipartisanship that defined those times and cast aside the divisions of the tea party era and four years of President Donald Trump.

Just as lawmakers celebrated their success, Trump on Tuesday night demanded changes to the bill – boosting direct payments to individuals from $600 to $2,000 – and suggested he might not sign it. The bill passed by veto-proof margins, but if Trump were to succeed in killing the bill, resuscitating the measure would likely be job No. 1 in a Biden-led Washington. In prior will-he-or-won't-he high-wire acts, Trump has signed big spending bills, but it's anybody's guess now.

In that context, the year-end deal – powered by the imperative to deliver pandemic relief to a struggling nation – is a good omen. At the end, it featured good-faith negotiation among Capitol Hill's skilled but battling leaders as well as a productive role for moderates and pragmatists in both parties whose efforts are often brushed aside.

"We have our first hint and glimpse of bipartisanship," Biden said Tuesday. "In this election, the American people made it clear they want us to reach across the aisle and work together."

The demand for bipartisanship is a common refrain that often comes as a throwaway line from Washington pols who have little experience in delivering it. But Biden has made it the centerpiece of his transition message – and he has a track record in the Senate and in the Obama administration of following through.

He also has no choice. The election delivered Democrats the narrowest House majority of the modern age and a narrowly divided Senate that demands bipartisanship, even if Democrats win control of a 50-50 chamber after next month's twin Georgia runoff elections.

Biden said there is much more work to do and spoke optimistically of lawmakers coming together again in January or February to pass another package – and the template for success is there.

TRUMP

From page A1

The relief package was brought forward Monday afternoon and sped through the House and Senate in a matter of hours as lawmakers worked to close the books on the year. While many lawmakers complained about being given so little time to read the bill, they overwhelmingly voted for it as local businesses and constituents seek economic relief from the pandemic

After months of partisanship and politicking about pandemic relief, the logjam broke after President-elect Joe Biden urged his party to accept a compromise with top Republicans that is smaller than many Democrats would have liked.

The relief bill Trump is criticizing would establish a temporary $300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a $600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses, restaurants and theaters and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction.

Trump again held no public events at the White House. He has refused to accept the reality of his loss and claimed incorrectly in his tweet Tuesday that if Congress didn't send him a suitable bill, then the next administration would have to deliver a pandemic relief package "and maybe that administration will be me and we will get it done."

hp SPORTS

Lakeshore football opts out of playoffs

MHSAA postpones fall tournaments again as rapid testing plan put in place

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

Lakeshore decided on Monday to opt out of the MHSAA football playoffs, which were put on hold yet again on Tuesday.

The Lancers were scheduled to play top-ranked DeWitt for a Division 3 regional championship on Jan. 2, a game that was already postponed twice by a statewide shutdown of organized sports to control the spread of COVID-19.

Teams still competing in fall tournaments now face even further postponements. The MHSAA ordered teams to suspend practice on Tuesday as it implements a rapid COVID-19 testing program, required by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for restarting competition.

Practices won't resume until Dec. 30, after the tests have been received and school personnel trained to use them. New competition dates hadn't been set as of Tuesday night.

Concern about the testing was among several reasons Lakeshore decided not to play.

A letter from Lakeshore Superintendent Phil Freeman, Principal Jeff Yauchstetter and Athletic Director Greg Younger was sent to the families of football players on Monday night, outlining the reasons for the decision.

"We brought our student-athletes together (Monday) afternoon to gauge interest in returning to play at this time and to determine the level of participation among key players in the program," the letter stated. "The bottom line is that Lakeshore football will not be able to safely field a team on January 2, 2021. At this time, 12 of the 22 starting positions from this fall's team will be unfilled for reasons ranging from family commitments, to injury, to concerns about a testing protocol that has yet to be defined."

Barring a change of plans, Lakeshore will finish its season 7-2. The Lancers beat rival St. Joseph twice, including a 14-9 win in the district championship game. They were defeated by DeWitt 43-6 in the regular-season finale.

"Our Lakeshore High School football team had a stellar season despite unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic," the letter said. "We are proud of your accomplishments, which includes winning seven of nine games and a district title."

Contact: bsanders@TheHP.com, 429-1294, Twitter: @HPBen Sanders

Paul Sancya / AP

Michigan defensive coordinator Don Brown celebrates after beating Michigan State 44-10 on Nov. 16, 2019.

Shakeup? Michigan dismisses defensive coordinator Don Brown after five seasons

By ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS
The Detroit News (TNS)

The Michigan football shakeup has begun.

Defensive coordinator Don Brown, who took over the defense in 2016 and shaped it to be No. 1-rated nationally, and Michigan have parted ways, two sources confirmed to The Detroit News on Tuesday.

Bruce Feldman of FOX Sports was the first to report the news.

Brown's dismissal comes as Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh, who completed his sixth season with the Wolverines, continues discussions with athletic director Warde Manuel about a contract extension. Harbaugh has one year remaining on his current seven-year deal and entered this season as the only FBS coach with less than two years on his contract.

The move appears to be a strong indicator that Harbaugh will return for the 2021 season. He and Manuel, who said the two would meet after the season to discuss his future at Michigan, began discussions last Thursday. Michigan finished 2-4 and canceled its final three games because of COVID-19-related issues. It was a poor season across the board for the Wolverines, but the defense was in disarray.

Parting with Brown also suggests this won't be the last shakeup on this staff. Six of Harbaugh's assistants have contracts expiring next month – offensive line coach Ed Warinner, running backs/special teams coordinator Jay Harbaugh, defensive line coach Shaun Nua, tight ends coach Sherrone Moore, cornerbacks coach Mike Zordich and quarterbacks coach Ben McDaniels. Meanwhile, safeties coach Bob Shoop, hired earlier this year, wasn't an on-field coach this past season.

Brown, 65, was the highest paid assistant in the Big Ten this past season. He earned $1.1 million in base salary and a $600,000 retention bonus. He was hired late in 2015 and then signed a new three-year deal in 2019 worth a minimum of $4.9 million. The final year of the deal that was to expire in 2022 was to pay Brown $1.7 million.

"It's sad to see someone like him get let go," former Michigan defensive lineman Chris Wormley, now with the Pittsburgh Steelers, told The News. "After all that success he had his first few years there…something needed to change after the way the season ended, especially on the defensive side of the ball, and Jim must've thought that was the best course of action.

"After all that success he had his first few years there... something needed to change after the way the season ended, especially on the defensive side of the ball, and Jim (Harbaugh) must've thought that was the best course of action.

CHRIS WORMLEY
Former Michigan defensive lineman

"It'll be interesting to see if anyone else gets fired. He had a big part of a lot of guys getting drafted, and that'll never be taken away. Maybe they should've kept old man Matty after all."

Wormley laughed with that last comment referring to former Michigan defensive line coach Greg Mattison, who is now co-defensive coordinator at Ohio State.

In 2016, Wormley's last season at Michigan and only under Brown's direction, the Wolverines finished first nationally in total defense, allowing an average 261.8 yards. Two years later, they finished No. 2. But this season, Michigan allowed 434.3 yards a game and finished 87th nationally.

Two games during Brown's tenure have always been part of a critique of his aggressive man defense – the 62-39 loss at Ohio State in 2018 and the 56-27 loss to the Buckeyes in 2019.

"The Ohio State game was a huge negative for us," Brown said earlier this year during a Zoom call with reporters. "I'm not going to live in that world. And I don't want the players to live in that world. We acknowledge it, we move on from it, and hopefully I do a better job, because I don't blame players for anything. You blame the old guy right here, OK? I've gotta do a

See **BROWN**, page B2

Cubs are still utilizing Maddon's methods

By MARK GONZELES
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

Former Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon's methods still lurk around the team's offices, where officials are pondering several options as they try to sculpt a roster destined for change.

And third baseman Kris Bryant, who made at least six starts at four different positions during his 2016 National League Most Valuable Player season, holds the cards to the degree of versatility the team may employ in 2021.

Should Bryant, who is one year away from free agency, remain from the Cubs, he could fill more of a void in left field with the departure of Kyle Schwarber.

That potential switch would create an opening at third base, where David Bote showed improvement during stints when Bryant was sidelined because of bow, wrist and oblique injuries. Nico Hoerner, the Cubs' first pick in the 2018 draft, started two games and played 40 innings at third base last season despite spending the majority of his playing time at second base.

"I think Joe kind of started that culture with us," said President Jed Hoyer earlier this month of Maddon's openness to move players to different positions as part of his mission to enhance growth and foster his "be uncomfortable" slogan during his five seasons as Cubs manager (2015-2019).

"I think I think it makes a lot of sense that you know Kris Bryant won an MVP award and can move around the diamond and play in different spots. Javier Baez broke in (playing different positions), and there's nothing wrong with that. I don't think you have to be labeled as a utility guy. It gives you a better chance to get in the lineup. It probably makes you a more productive player, and eventually you kind of settle into one place."

There remains a strong possibility that Bryant will remain at third if he's not dealt prior to the start of the 2021 season, especially if the Cubs can shore up their dearth of outfielders. But this winter presents a different landscape where many teams are uncertain about their financial resources, and Bryant's free agency is looming.

Commissioner Rob Manfred recently told National League teams to prepare under the assumption the designated hitter would not be used in 2021. That would place a premium on versatility, especially with double-switches late in games as managers try to preserve their pinch-hitters.

See **CUBS**, page B2

NFL players take leading role on social justice front

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Many NFL players have been leaders on the social justice front, and some of them are being considered for the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year award. None of them is dedicated to the cause with any such honors in mind.

Sure, having an enhanced platform as a nominee for the award that recognizes a player who has had a significant positive impact on his community is important. Such past winners as Calais Campbell, Anquan Boldin and Chris Long have been particularly influential in helping those in need.

In 2020, a year of reckoning for the social justice movement, the 32 nominees and hundreds of other NFL players, coaches and executives say they have gotten a deeper understanding of the issues facing America. They know how critical it is to act now.

"I just think 2020 has just been a hard year for a lot of people," says Saints linebacker Demario Davis, who helped spearhead his team's #SAYHERNAME campaign, which points attention to Black women who have been victims of police brutality as well as the plights Black women may face in everyday life.

"And something that I try to represent is just hope. Everybody I help, everybody that I serve, it's all in light of trying to bring hope to that individual or that group or that community.

"And so, in a time where so much is going on, and so many people have had to

See **JUSTICE**, page B2

John Bazemore / AP

New Orleans Saints outside linebacker Demario Davis leaves the field after a Dec. 6 game. Davis embarked on a social justice listening tour in Atlanta, Washington, Buffalo, Minneapolis and Los Angeles in five days in June.

BROWN

From page B1

better job getting our guys ready, and I'll promise you I'm going to."

Michigan signed 20 incoming freshmen during the early signing period last week. Among them is linebacker Junior Colson, a four-star recruit from Tennessee, who posted on Twitter a simple message – "Wow" – evidently in response to the news about Brown.

Now Michigan must identify its next defensive coordinator. A name that certainly will be in the mix is fired Vanderbilt head coach Derek Mason. Mason, 51, was the defensive backs coach at Stanford in 2010 and was hired by Harbaugh, who was head coach at the time. Another potential candidate is Will Muschamp, who was fired by South Carolina last month.

CUBS

From page B1

Although Schwarber, who was not tendered a contract earlier this month, could re-sign with the Cubs at a substantially lower salary, the Cubs are open to moving Ian Happ from center field to left – as they did in late innings with a lead in 2020.

"I think we're totally comfortable with Ian playing center," Hoyer said of Happ, who played second base earlier in his career. "But if an acquisition brought us a center fielder, that kind of pure natural centerfielder that would be above average defensively, we can certainly (move Happ to left)."

Hoerner played shortstop his final two seasons at Stanford (2017-18) and filled in adequately for the final three weeks of 2019 after Javier Baez fractured a finger, his versatility has expanded to third and center field – where he has made three starts in the last two seasons and could play there more frequently in 2021.

"His willingness to grow and attack any position, and his baseball I.Q. makes it really easy to have the conversation of, 'I need you to bounce around,' or 'I need you to lock in it at short' or whatever the case may be," manager David Ross said.

"It's easy with a guy like that because there's a lot of flexibility there. There's a willingness to learn, and he's a good baseball player."

Hoerner said he "loves" playing the outfield, adding he likes to play in the middle of the field and already had a plan to adjust to longer throws.

"I'll just backspin it," he smiled.

Third baseman Christopher Morel, the Cubs' eighth top prospect by Baseball America, made remarkable strides at the South Bend Alternate Site last summer despite playing only 188 games in his minor-league career and none above Class A.

Morel was thought so highly by the Cubs that he was added to the 40-man roster earlier this month to protect him from the Rule 5 draft.

And in an effort to enhance his value, Morel will work out in the outfield, second base and shortstop.

"He has flexibility," said Matt Dorey, the Cubs senior director of player development. "And he has plenty of raw power. He doesn't have to sell out for it the whole time."

JUSTICE

From page B1

deal with so much, I hope that they can look to me as a symbol, or a representative of hope because ultimately, that's all I want to bring."

Davis embarked on a social justice listening tour in Atlanta, Washington, Buffalo, Minneapolis and Los Angeles in five days in June. A portion of profits from his "Man of God" masks and bandanas will benefit the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.

In the wake of the civil unrest this year, Rams players established a social justice fund and veteran tackle Andrew Whitworth pledged to match all his teammates' contributions. The players awarded $750,000 to 25 social justice nonprofits across the greater Los Angeles region. Whitworth personally reached out to some of the nonprofits to thank them for their work.

"The greatest thing in life is to be able to invest in the people around you," Whitworth says. "I'm always asking myself, 'What can I do for this community?' I want to put my arms around them. I want to stand right beside them. It's never about me, it's about all of us. It's about a difference we can make together and how we can inspire each other to be there for one another.

"As great as it is to have people cheering us on every Sunday, it means the world to me to go out and pay that back. I want to show people that I'm not just an athlete that's here to play ball, but that I'm here to make a difference. I believe that's what will stand the test of time."

While every American has been tested in 2020, whether by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on all aspects of our lives, or the bitterness that has permeated much of society, the need to act has become undeniable. For some in the NFL, it has been an awakening to the necessity – indeed, the obligation – to take an active role in their communities.

For Rodney McLeod of the Eagles, that has meant becoming a key voice in establishing the Eagles Social Justice Leadership Council comprised of a collection of players and club executives aimed at identifying potential grant recipients and securing contributions to the Eagles Social Justice Fund. McLeod has been one of the staunchest advocates for area-based organizations working to reduce barriers to equal opportunity.

"Throughout his career, Rodney has exemplified a relentless passion and commitment to making a difference, not only on the football field, but in the community," says team owner Jeffrey Lurie.

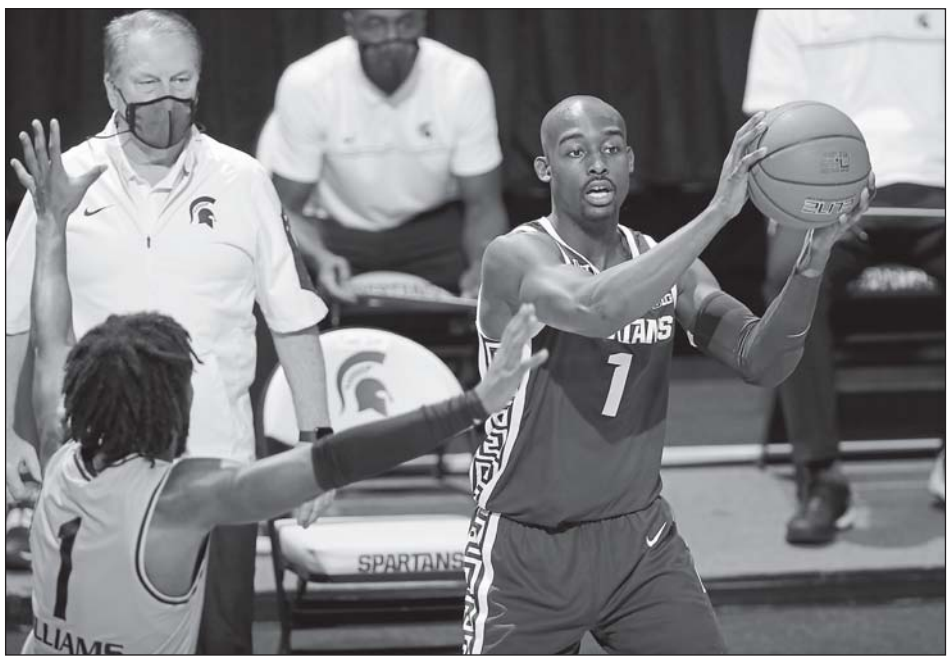
"As a country, we have faced incredible hardship this year, but Rodney has been a bright spot for so many in our community. From creating the Change Our Future Foundation to assisting vulnerable communities in the midst of a pandemic to making his voice heard on social justice matters, Rodney has provided hope by sparking real change in Philadelphia and beyond."

There are dozens more who could be cited for the specific initiatives they have undertaken this year. All of them likely would say they don't need the recognition, they simply want to help – and encourage others to do so.

"I just feel like it's my job to help when I can," Buccaneers receiver Mike Evans says. "When I was a kid, I'd always tell myself if I ever grew up to have money, I'd help even more people than I did when I didn't have any money. God blessed me with this opportunity and I'm just trying to pay it forward while I can."

Grandpa's fishing poles aren't going to sell themselves.

To place a classified ad in The Herald-Palladium, please call 429-4484. Phones are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.



Al Goldis / AP

Michigan State's Joshua Langford, right, looks to pass against Oakland's Rashad Williams during the second half of a Dec. 13 game.

Experienced players make difference during pandemic

By AARON BEARD
AP Basketball Writer

Joshua Langford is part of a Michigan State team leaning on upperclassmen in at the top of its rotation, including multiple players from a Final Four squad two seasons ago.

It's the kind of veteran experience that has given Tom Izzo's 12th-ranked Spartans and some of the nation's top men's basketball teams an early edge, providing continuity amid the constant uncertainty and changing schedules during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I don't have any experience under my belt in terms of what we're dealing with this season in terms of the virus and different things like that," said Langford, a graduate student. "But I do have experience under my belt in terms of how to deal with adversity, knowing how to deal with high and knowing how to deal with lows."

That type of leadership has perhaps never been more valuable.

It's been a key element for good starts by teams like No. 1 Gonzaga, No. 2 Baylor and No. 4 Iowa as coaches and players are forced to navigate pauses, postponements, cancellations and quarantines that have interrupted routines and training regimens.

The lack of that experience by teams whose best players are young also is one reason bluebloods like Duke and Kentucky have have struggled.

"When you're switching opponents on the fly," Baylor coach Scott Drew said, "you're relying on habits and how quickly your young men can pick up what you want them to execute in the games. That's where experience really does help."

Wildcats coach John Calipari recently zeroed in on that, too, noting: "The veteran teams have a huge advantage this season."

"The inexperienced teams, which I think we're one of the least experienced teams with 10 new guys that have never played together, we're at a big disadvantage," Calipari said a day before Kentucky fell to 1-4 with a Dec. 12 loss to Notre Dame.

Looking at some of the nation's top teams – even as Gonzaga and Baylor dealt with recent coronavirus-related pauses – it's easy to see Calipari's point.

Sophomore Drew Timme and touted freshman Jalen Suggs have performed well for Gonzaga, but it's senior guard Corey Kispert (21.4 points) leading the Zags in scoring amid a 5-0 start that includes wins against No. 3 Kansas, No. 7 West Virginia, Iowa and Auburn. There's also redshirt junior Joel Ayayi (team-high 8.6 rebounds) and Florida junior transfer Andrew Nembhard as double-digit scorers.

The Bears have junior Jared Butler as a preseason Associated Press All-American among six juniors or seniors in the main rotation for a team that beat No. 18 Illinois.

There's also the prolific Hawkeyes, who have their own preseason AP All-American in senior Luka Garza – averaging a national-best 29.3 points – and junior Joe Wieskamp averaging another 15.9 points. They lead an Iowa team ranked No. 1 in KenPom's adjusted efficiency rankings as of Monday's games by scoring 119.5 points per 100 possessions entering Tuesday's Big Ten opener against Purdue.

And it was a senior in guard Matt Coleman III who hit the step-back jumper with 0.1 seconds left to lift No. 10 Texas past No. 17 North Carolina for the championship in this month's relocated Maui Invitational.

They've all been around long enough to know what to expect – in a normal year, anyway.

"We're an experienced team," Iowa redshirt senior Jordan Bohannon said after the Hawkeyes' win against UNC earlier this month. "We know what to do to get things done and win games."

Freshmen adjusting to the college level or sophomores to a new role despite no exhibition games amid virus-driven upheaval is a formula that has led to challenges for many.

Tennessee coach Rick Barnes has seen the impact on the Vols roster. The eighth-ranked Volunteers (5-0) had their first four games canceled amid COVID-19 concerns that included the coach's own positive test, and didn't take the court for their first game until Dec. 8.

"Our older guys, they've been able to handle the stops and starts better than the younger guys," Barnes said.

"The older guys, they come into the gym and did what they were supposed to do. It's the team concept where when we call something, the older guys get it and the younger guys are looking around saying, 'What was that?' But that's where we have to have a different package with some of the younger guys. The older guys, they should know."

And that's where things get difficult for youth-laden squads like the unranked Wildcats – now 1-5 after Saturday's loss to UNC – and 20th-ranked Blue Devils.

Duke has 10 freshmen or sophomores and hadn't found the right flow in a 2-2 start while playing without the jolt from its famed homecourt advantage; the school holds games without the "Cameron Crazies" or any fans. The Blue Devils have home losses to Michigan State and Illinois, but w on at Notre Dame last week in their Atlantic Coast Conference opener with an improved performance that showed signs of growth.

"If you don't have a veteran team, where you have a bunch of key guys coming back, really you're kind of experimenting," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said after the Illinois loss.

"You don't know for sure what the offense will look like. We thought we could be more of an up-tempo, penetrate, kick, ballscreen (team), and be free shooters. Obviously that's not going on. … So we've got to keep looking, keep looking."

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Buffalo	11	3	0	.786	407	340
Miami	9	5	0	.643	352	257
New England	6	8	0	.429	289	301
N.Y. Jets	1	13	0	.071	206	413

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	4	0	.714	399	320
Tennessee	10	4	0	.714	436	361
Houston	4	10	0	.286	315	386
Jacksonville	1	13	0	.071	275	423

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	11	3	0	.786	366	264
Cleveland	10	4	0	.714	368	374
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	403	287
Cincinnati	3	10	1	.250	271	355

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Kansas City	13	1	0	.929	435	310
Las Vegas	7	7	0	.500	377	421
Denver	5	9	0	.357	276	395
L.A. Chargers	5	9	0	.357	327	389

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	8	0	.429	302	295
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	339	433
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	244	311
Philadelphia	4	9	1	.321	303	361

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	397	297
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	401	321
Atlanta	4	10	0	.286	355	353
Carolina	4	10	0	.286	323	356

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	434	339
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	318
Minnesota	6	8	0	.429	360	388
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	335	435

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	10	4	0	.714	413	339
L.A. Rams	9	5	0	.643	345	269
Arizona	8	6	0	.571	391	329
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	333	352

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Monday's Game
Cincinnati 27, Pittsburgh 17

Friday, Dec. 25
Minnesota at New Orleans, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 26
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:30 p.m.
Miami at Las Vegas, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27
Atlanta at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 28
Buffalo at New England, 8:15 p.m.
New Orleans at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
Utah at Portland, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
No games scheduled

Friday's Games
New Orleans at Miami, 12 p.m.
Golden State at Milwaukee, 2:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Boston, 5 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

NBA

Tuesday's Games
Brooklyn 125, Golden State 99
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's Games
Charlotte at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 7 p.m.
New York at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Washington at Phila., 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 7:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

FOOTBALL
National Football League

ATLANTA FALCONS — Waived CB Jordan Miller from injured reserve.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed RB Spencer Ware to the practice squad. Activated WR Thomas Ives to practice squad from the practice squad/COVID-19 list. Activated WR DeAndre Carter to the active roster from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed OL Chris Hubbard on injured reserve. Placed S Elijah Benton on the practice squad/COVID-19 list.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Activated DB Nick Scott from injured reserve. Placed DB Juju Hughes on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Signed CB Dee Virgin to the practice squad. Placed DT Marquise Copeland and LB Derrick Moncrief on the practice squad/COVID-19 list. Activated OLB Jachai Polite from the practice squad/COVID-19 list to the practice squad.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Designated QB Jimmy Garoppolo to return from injured reserve. Placed QB Josh Johnson and WR Kevin White on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

Cubs claim OF Phillip Ervin off waivers from Mariners

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs claimed outfielder Phillip Ervin off waivers from the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday.

Ervin spent time with Cincinnati and Seattle during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, batting .149 with four RBIs in 37 games. He was designated for assignment by the Mariners last week.

The 28-year-old Ervin was selected by the Reds in the first round of the 2013 amateur draft. He is a .247 hitter with 17 homers, 68 RBIs and 15 steals in 237 career games.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

The 2020 Michigan Associated Press Division All-State Division 7-8 football team, which is selected by a statewide panel of sports writers:

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Brady Hessbrook, Ithaca, Sr.

FIRST-TEAM ALL-STATE
QUARTERBACKS
Brady Hessbrook, Ithaca, Sr.
Alex Thole, Schoolcraft, Sr.
RUNNING BACKS
Sheldon Huff, Johannesburg-Lewiston, Sr.
Jackson Zeiter, Madison Heights Bishop Foley, So.
Cam Valliere, Breckenridge, Sr.
Cole Jondro, Monroe St. Mary's Catholic, So.
Will Alexander, Sand Creek, Sr.
WIDE RECEIVERS
Josh Sherwood, Grass Lake, Sr.
Adam Kidder, Madison Heights Bishop Foley, So.
Alex Armenio, Royal Oak Shrine, Sr.
Zach Poff, Ithaca, Sr.
Damaso Lebron, Homer, Sr.
LINEMEN
Cam Orr, New Lothrop, Sr.
Casey Donahue, Traverse City St. Francis, Sr.
Cole Pape, Delton Kellogg, Sr.
Nathan Lundin, West Iron County, Sr.
Noah Bauman, Ottawa Lake-Whiteford, Jr.
Tommy Runyan, Johannesburg-Lewiston, Sr.
Darron Chinery, Saginaw Nouvel, Sr.
Derrick Harmon, Detroit Loyola, Sr.
LINEBACKERS
Luke Snyder, Charlevoix, Sr.
Ethan Eyler, Petersburg-Summerfield, Sr.
Nicholas Trumble, Addison, Jr.
Garrett Fitzgerald, Breckenridge, Sr.
DEFENSIVE BACKS
Dylan LaGrow, Hemlock, Sr.
Connor DeVries, Lawton, Sr.
Dilon Denison, Reading, Sr.
Will Muron, New Lothrop, Sr.
SPECIALIST
Jus'tyz Tuggle, Detroit Central, Sr.
KICKER
Connor Butcher, Auburn Hills Oakland Christian, Sr.
PUNTER
Carson Voss, Dansville, Sr.
COACH OF THE YEAR
Scott Cuthrell, Cass City

SECOND-TEAM ALL-STATE
(nominees receiving two or more votes from the voting panel)
QUARTERBACKS
Giovanni Mastromatteo, Clarkston Everest Collegiate, Sr.; Anthony Garrett, Detroit Loyola, Jr.
RUNNING BACKS
DeSean Matthews, Detroit Southeastern, Jr.; Kyler Stone, Carson City-Crystal, Sr.; Alex Perry, Cass City, Sr.; Brian Morgan, Houghton Lake, Jr.
WIDE RECEIVERS
Shenard Foster, Detroit Loyola, Jr.; Lowyind Pullen, Homer, Sr.
LINEMEN
Evan Stephayn, Lawton, Jr.; John Suran, Clarkston Everest Collegiate, Sr.; Jackson Marsh, Sand Creek, Sr.; Blake Smithers, Laker, Sr.; Corey Schafer, Pewamo-Westphalia, Jr.; Connor Webb, Schoolcraft, Sr.; Gavin Lueck, Oscoda, Sr.; Will Taylor, New Lothrop, Sr.; Dominic Harris, Detroit Southeastern, Jr.
LINEBACKERS
Micah Brown, Flint Beecher, Sr.; Jeremy Velasquez, Cass City, Sr.; Brayden Green, Hemlock, Sr.; Dom Cross, Clarkston Everest Collegiate, Sr.; Logan Wertman, Pewamo-Westphalia, Sr.
DEFENSIVE BACKS
Jonathan Holloway, Lawton, Sr.; Jared Bristle, Dansville, Jr.; Joel Emery, Ravenna, Sr.
SPECIALIST
Trent Reed, Beaverton, Sr.
COACHES
Mark Whitley, Oscoda; Michael Pruchnicki, Clarkston Everest Collegiate.

HONORABLE MENTION
QUARTERBACKS
Caleb Stuck, Charlevoix; Owen Franklin, Oscoda; Grant Richardson, Harbor Springs; Conor Benson, Royal Oak Shrine; Dylan Gough, Madison Heights Bishop Foley; Carson Farley, Grass Lake; Jake Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia; Danny Witbeck, Evart; Porter Mauk, Reading; Jack Kujawa, Saginaw Nouvel; Sam Todd, Centreville; Luke Saunders, Breckenridge; Zane Forist, Carson City-Crystal; Elijah Grainger, Detroit Central; LeRon Roseboro, Detroit Southeastern.
RUNNING BACKS
Dave Whitehead, Leslie; Bryant Calderon, Evart; Caleb Evosevich-Hynes, Iron Mountain; Jackson Crotser, Mendon; Jake Rueff, Lawton; Robert Knapik, Hemlock; Ben Matthews, Beal City; Tanner Wirth, Pewamo-Westphalia; Carson Heleski, Ubly; Dan Rodenbaugh, McBain; Derek Draher, Ithaca; Trae Garcia, St. Louis; Nathan Rodlund, Addison; Dylan Malinowski, Addison; Trenton Holden, Grass Lake; Devon Shaw, Ottawa Lake-Whiteford.
WIDE RECEIVERS
Zach Hawes, Laingsburg; Drew Hess, Oscoda; Kenyatta McKeever, Detroit Central; Harmon DeVries, Schoolcraft; Charles Niehaus, Royal Oak Shrine; Carter McAlvey, Carson City-Crystal.
LINEMEN
Xemines Willis, Jackson Lumen Christi; Nic Carey, Leslie; Jack Burmis, Hanover-Horton; Matt Oswald, Beal City; Kyler Economou, Quincy; Ugo Ike, Royal Oak Shrine; Mack Bontekoe, McBain; Kamrin Grein, Evart; Aidan Schmuckal, Traverse City St. Francis; Zach Nickel, Charlevoix; Kaden Schirmer, Oscoda; Caden Blashill, Sandusky; Cameron May, Detroit Southeastern; Jamonn Avery, Detroit Community; Kyler King, Detroit Community; Hunter Hahn, Hemlock; Luke Maxwell, St. Louis; Ethan Locke, Beal City; Mitch Hall, Beaverton; Bryce Middleton, Coleman; Tommy Beckman, Saugatuck; Steven Cook, Ravenna; Caleb Burklund, Iron Mountain; Isaiah Simon, Grass Lake; Kaleb Thompson, Fowler; Nick Noel, Pewamo-Westphalia; Kobe Farrow, Addison.
LINEBACKERS
Myles McFarland, Detroit Loyola; Brody Dalton, Jackson Lumen Christi; Bryce Pietrantonio, Iron Mountain; Dominic Horak, Fowler; Brennan Pannucci, North Muskegon; Aidan Mindel, Beal City; Craig Tappenden, Bronson; Zach Franzel, Sandusky; Caleb Nagel, Oscoda; Colton Oyervidez, Laker; Jake Hamp, Houghton Lake.
DEFENSIVE BACKS
Brock Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia; Connor Schrank, Coleman; Deonte Redwine, Flint Beecher; Bryce Fernald, Cass City.
SPECIALIST
Riley Hawkins, Dansville; Jimmy Downs, Schoolcraft; Trent Hocter, Hanover-Horton; Austin Hawkins, Holton; Julius Garza, New Lothrop; Devin Albain, Petersburg-Summerfield; Dariontae Brown, Detroit Community.
KICKER
Gabe Rahrig, North Muskegon; Bryce Kempf, Traverse City St. Francis.
PUNTER
Chase Mitchell, Lawton
COACH
Don Jess, Charlevoix
Tim Swore, Carson City-Crystal
Terry Hessbrook, Ithaca

PRIME TIME TV

WEDNESDAY EVENING DEC. 23

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7)(13)(41)(57)	Wheel of Fortune	Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town		The Great Christmas Light Fight ((F)) Brooklyn, N.Y.; Atlanta, Ga. (N)			
CBS (2)(3)(22)	Ent. Tonight	A Holly Dolly Christmas CC		Garth & Trisha Live-Holiday Concert		S.W.A.T. "Monster" CC	
NBC (5)(8)(16)	Ac. Hollywood	Chicago Med CC (DVS)		Chicago Fire "Rattle Second City"		Chicago P.D. "Fighting Ghosts"	
FOX (17)(22)(28)(32)	Modern Family	I Can See Your Voice "Episode 8; Episode 10" Taye Diggs; DeRay Davis; Joel McHale.				Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS (34)	Outdoor Elements	Nature "Snowbound: Animals of Winter"		NOVA New Horizons prepares for a flyby.		NOVA Building a supersonic airliner.	
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	Silent Night -- A Song for the World The creation of the Christmas carol. CC				News	Seinfeld CC
MNT (50)	Family Feud	Dateline "The Motive" CC		Dateline A celebration ends in murder.		Dateline "A Crack in Everything" CC	
WCIU (26)	Mike & Molly	Silent Night -- A Song for the World The creation of the Christmas carol. CC				King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME (46)	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Hearts Run Free"		Highway to Heaven "A Divine Madness"		Nightly News	
WGN (9)	News	black-ish CC	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam	Court Cam: Top 10 Moments of 2020 (N)		:01 Rescue Cam	:32 Rescue Cam
AMC	Four Chris	★★★ Elf ('03, Children's) Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart. CC				★★★ The Polar Express ('04) CC	
Animal	North-	:01 North Woods Law: Uncuffed (N)				North Woods Law	
BET	Best Man	Payne	As. Living	Tyler Perry's Sistas		Games People Play	
Big Ten	College Basketball		College Basketball Northwestern at Indiana.				B1G Live
Bravo	Housewives/OC	Housewives/OC		Housewives/OC		Real Housewives of Salt Lake City	
Cartoon	LEGO DC Shazam			American	American	American	Fam. Guy
Cinemax	★★ Red Dawn	★★ The Hunt ('20) Ike Barinholtz, Betty Gilpin. CC			★★ Fear ('96) Mark Wahlberg, Reese Witherspoon. CC		
CMT	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	S. Smith	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank CC	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Park CC	
Discovery	Expedition X	Josh Gates Tonight "Full Stream Ahead"		:01 Expedition Unknown: Rediscovered "The Life of Jesus Christ" (N) CC			
Disney	Ladybug	Ladybug	Ladybug	Big City	Holiday	Bizaard	Bizaard
DIY	Restored	Holmes Inspection		Holmes & Holmes		Holmes & Holmes	
E!	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley
ESPN	College Football Montgomery Bowl -- Memphis vs Florida Atlantic.						Basket
ESPN2	ESPN	ESPN Sports Shorts		The Walk	UFC Main Event		UFC
ESPNC	Football	College Football From Nov. 17, 1979.				College Football	
Food	Grocery	Guy's Games		Guy's Games		Guy's Games	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Pistons	NBA Basketball: Pistons at Timberwolves					Pistons
Freefrm	Santa Clause 3	:10 ★★ Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas ('00, Children's) Jim Carrey, Jeffrey Tambor, Christine Baranski. CC					
FX	:00 FX's A Christmas Carol Scrooge has a dark night of the soul. CC						Christmas Carol
Golf	U.S. Open	2020 TOUR Championship Final Round. CC					
Hallmark	Cross Country	Christmas Next Door ('17) Jesse Metcalfe, Fiona Gubelmann. CC				The Nine Lives of Christmas ('14)	
HBO	His Dark Materials	His Dark Materials "Malice" CC		8:50 ★★ Contraband ('12, Action) Mark Wahlberg. CC			I Used to Go Here
History	Forged	Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire (N)		:03 Forged in Fire	
HGTV	Home	Home Town (N)		Property Brothers		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	My Feet	Dr. Pimple Popper		Buddy Valastro: Road to Recovery (N)			
Lifetime	Christmas High	Christmas at the Castle ('19) Brooke Burfitt, Dan Jeannotte. (P). CC				:03 Feliz NaviDAD ('20) CC	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Ridic.	The Challenge "Double Agents"			Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Pregame	7:55 NBA Basketball Atlanta Hawks at Chicago Bulls.					Postgame
NFL	NFL Total	NFL Football Teams TBA. (Taped) CC					
Nick	Madagas	Sponge.	Sponge.	Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Trafficked	Trafficked-van Zeller		Trafficked-van Zeller		Narco Wars (N)	
Oxygen	Dateline: Secrets	Cold Justice (N) CC		Cold Justice (N) CC		Killer Siblings "Williams" CC	
Parmt	Raiders of the Lost Ark ('81)			Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade			
Showtime	Shameless	★★★ Pleasantville ('98, Comedy) Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels. CC				:05 ★★ Legally Blonde ('01)	
Starz	:17 Outlander	:14 Outlander "Eye of the Storm" CC		:12 ★★ Bruce Almighty ('03, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman. CC			
STZENC	6:48 ★★★ Frozen ('13) CC		:34 ★★ A Dog's Way Home ('19) Ashley Judd. CC			:13 ★★★ Monsters University	
SyFy	Transformers	★★★ Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire ('05) Daniel Radcliffe. Voldemort lays a trap for Harry at the Triwizard Tournament.					
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Misery Index	Full Frontal
TCM	Bell Book Cndl	★★★ Meet Me in St. Louis ('44) Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien. CC (DVS)				★★★ The Cheaters ('45) CC	
TMC	★ Countdown	★★★★ Rain Man ('88, Comedy-Drama) Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise. CC				:15 An Officer and a Gentleman	
TNT	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Boston Celtics.					All Elite Wrestling	
Travel	Monsters	Mothman Sigh.		Bigfoot: Fear		True Paranormal	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Everybody Raymond		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU	WWE NXT (N) (L) CC				The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	
VH1	:00 ★★★ House Party ('90) CC				★★ Bad Boys ('95) CC		
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

A mid-afternoon nap is one of life's great pleasures

DEAR DOCTOR: My Type A husband, who naturally falls asleep for about 25 minutes on weekend afternoons, complains that he's wasting time when he does so. How do I explain to him the benefits of napping?

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

DEAR READER: Millions of people throughout the world take a daily nap. In many cultures the afternoon sleep break is built right into everyday life. Businesses close shop and everyone heads home for lunch and a bit of shut-eye.

Here in the goal-oriented United States, though, napping carries a bit of stigma. It sounds as though your husband has internalized that feeling, which is too bad because you're correct – a daytime nap is often a good thing.

Studies show that napping does more than just reduce fatigue. It can elevate your mood, improve productivity and make it easier for you to learn and retain new information.

However – and this is where things get a bit tricky – not all naps are equally beneficial. It turns out that what time you nap and how long that nap lasts make a difference.

A nap as brief as 10 minutes and up to 30 minutes can leave you feeling energized. Sleep much longer than half an hour and chances increase that you'll wake in a mental fog. The reason for all this is that sleep is quite complex. Not only are there several different stages of sleep, they occur in distinct cycles.

When you first drift off, you move from light sleep, from which you can awaken easily, into stages of ever-deeper sleep. Your brain waves and even your brain chemistry change. It becomes progressively more difficult to awaken. People in the stage known as "deep sleep" show no muscle or eye movement.

The other stage of sleep is known as REM sleep, which is short for "rapid eye movement." This is the cycle during which you dream, and in which the brain registers significant electrical and chemical activity. Fall short on REM sleep and it's quite possible you'll wind up feeling cranky or irritable.

Which leads us back to the question of optimal napping.

First – what time to close your eyes. Sleep experts agree that mid-afternoon is optimal. Your body clock is naturally primed for a break, and it's far enough away from bedtime so as to not interfere with your night sleep.

Next, the reason why a brief nap feels best.

It takes about 90 minutes for your body (and brain) to go through a complete sleep cycle. Sleep too little and you've barely grazed the surface of light sleep. Sleep too long and you're swimming up from the groggy depths of deep sleep. Aim for 20 to 30 minutes, which puts you into the earliest stages of REM sleep and lets you wake up easily, feeling refreshed.

For the best naps, choose a location that's dark and quiet. Lying down results in better sleep than sitting or reclining.

Setting an alarm will let you relax into your nap and assure that you'll wake up before deep sleep takes hold.

When you wake up, take a moment to stretch and take a few deep breaths. And enjoy. A good nap is one of life's real pleasures.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Status updates on mom devolve into nasty gossip

DEAR CAROLYN: I am number four of seven children, six girls and one boy. Our oldest sister is mentally ill and has been verbally abusive to us our whole lives. Our mother has pitted us against each other as well, which has made for a largely dysfunctional family.

Carolyn Hax

Our dad checked out long ago and has no contact with us. Now, at 59, I find myself largely ambivalent to my siblings and their constant drama.

Mom is in hospice and has no money. Our brother and his wife have taken Mom in, for which I give him credit. She is ornery on a good day.

My sisters are constantly backbiting and nasty to each other. I live out of state and with the current pandemic, I will likely never see my mother alive again.

I have tried ending conversations that are ostensibly to update me on Mom's status but that quickly become nasty gossip, which I cut off. You would think they would get the message, but they don't.

Any advice on what else I can do? – Wishing for Peace

DEAR WISHING FOR PEACE: There aren't many delicate ways to say this, so I'll try this one: These status updates are a problem that will, apparently quite soon, take care of itself, so I think the best thing you can do is continue with your practice of cutting off the gossip the moment it gets ugly.

It's the right thing to do regardless. Choosing not to participate is the first line of defense against distasteful conversations.

The only new thing I'd add is to give up, deliberately, any hope they'll "get the message."

You also always have the option, of course, to estrange yourself from any family members who are "backbiting and nasty" more than they are kind. We all have that prerogative, to keep negative influences out of our innermost rings. But you don't need me to tell you that, so I'll assume you have your own reasons for not completely cutting these ties.

It is an extreme gesture and painful for those who might not be healthy enough themselves to behave better, and so it's best reserved for when your own well-being demands it.

I also think there's a different answer for your brother. He may have earned your ambivalence to him, certainly – but whatever "credit" you're giving him and his wife, it's not enough. Because it can't be enough. Taking on the care of a critically ill relative is a form of everyday sainthood in itself.

To take in such a relative who has brought misery to every life she touches? If he wants to unload some stress, then the least you can do is hear him out. And if there's any other way you can support his effort from afar, be it to pick up some of the expenses or handle some remote tasks or just keep the sisters off his back, then consider doing that, too.

Again, it's not an eternal commitment. But even more important, it's a bit of selflessness that might ultimately unburden *you*.

If you can look back on these trying days and know you chose even arm's-length grace, then none of them – neither Mom nor siblings nor your own doubts – will be able to take that away.

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

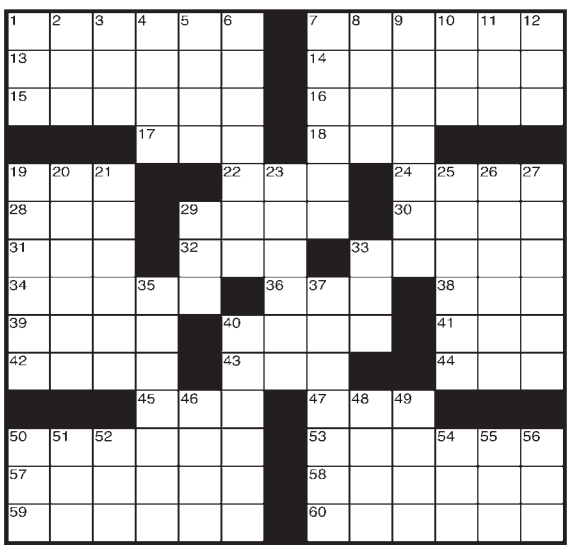
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Shaman or therapist
7 Communication devices
13 Frame of mind
14 Jauntily dashing
15 Father of Horus
16 Pass, as time
17 Fish, in a way
18 House buzzer
19 Mexican Mrs.
22 That, to Juanita
24 Mischievous children
28 Shirt or blouse
29 Union flouter
30 First-quarter tide
31 Louis XIV, e.g.
32 Off-road vehicle
33 Rock tumbler stone
34 Internet note
36 Nairobi's cont.
38 Fem. saint
39 Televises
40 Look at impertinently
41 Pioneered
42 Clues
43 Gaze at
44 Time divs.
45 Checkout scan
47 Bradley and McBain
50 Hun honcho
53 I-beam lifters
57 Borrowed car
58 Less trouble
59 Spanish girlfriends
60 Resides

DOWN
1 Med. plan
2 Dawn goddess
3 "Exodus" name
4 Pantry item
5 Essayist's pen name
6 Esteem
7 "Instant" house
8 Convention site
9 Approving
10 Pinch
11 19th letter
12 Yon maiden
19 Run of luck
20 Dorm sharer
21 Beehive
23 Barbarian
25 Paltry
26 Glib speech
27 Burns up the road
29 Mr. Mineo of films
33 Have being
35 Handing out
37 Took to the cleaners
40 Prized statuettes
46 Petition
48 Take a card
49 Business encl.
50 — — carte
51 Jones of fiction
52 — chi ch'uan
54 Goose egg
55 Sushi morsel
56 Almost-grads

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	A	T		P	R	A	Y		V	I	M	
U	G	H		R	I	T	E		I	B	I	S
C	H	E		I	D	E	A		X	E	N	A
H	A	N	G	S				T	E	X	T	S
			E	M	U		I	A	N			
V	E	S	T		N	A	N	O		G	O	P
O	R	C	A		A	R	C			E	L	L
L	O	A			B	I	O		B	E	L	A
S	S	N		C	L	A	M		A	S	A	N
			M	O	E		E	E	K			
B	A	R	O	N				T	E	A	C	H
R	T	E	S		J	O	S	H		C	A	Y
R	O	B	E		O	R	E	O		E	N	D
	N	A	Y		T	O	W	S		D	E	E



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DBEIA

LEOHL

SWIGAJ

RFONEZ

Do you cook tuna the same as salmon?
No! I sear the tuna, keeping the inside raw. The salmon needs to be 145 degrees internally. Now, let's talk flounder.
12/23
THE CHEF WHO SPECIALIZED IN COOKING GROUPER, TUNA, COD, ETC. WAS AN ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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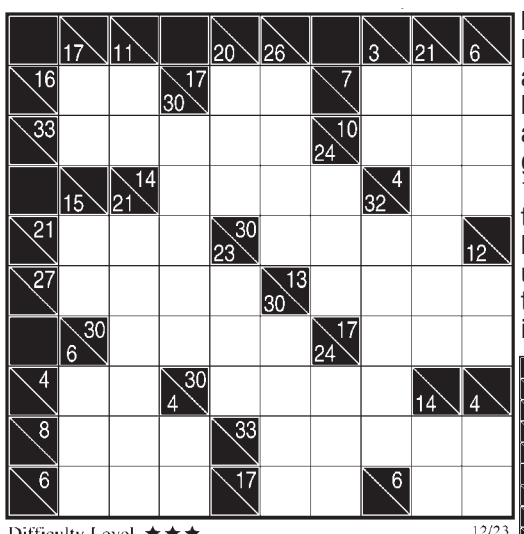
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"○-○○○○-○○○○○"

(Answers tomorrow)

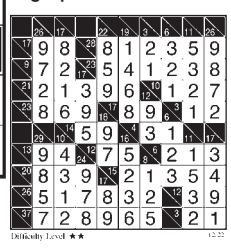
Yesterday's Jumbles: QUEST SPOIL DISOWN STEREO
Answer: Before the fashion model took the job, she — POSED QUESTIONS

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/23

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

The Chinese Premier League is one of the toughest events, with several top players from around the world competing. This year, though, it moved online with no nonresidents.

This deal, originally described by Jerry Li from Beijing, might remind you of yesterday's. How did the defenders defeat four hearts?

After one no-trump and a transfer bid, Yang Lixin (West) threw in a dangerous overcall, given that his partner could not open the bidding, North's strength was unknown, and he rated to be on lead. North doubled, showing values, and if South had passed, he probably would have collected 300 for down two. But South understandably went for game in the nine-card heart fit.

The defenders needed to take two spades and two diamonds. Yang did well to lead a trump, not a club away from his queen. Declarer won with dummy's king, played a trump to his ace and led a low diamond toward the king. How did Yang plan the defense?

Declarer had 15-17 points, dummy held 9, and West had 15. That left at most one jack for East. The spade jack wouldn't help, but the diamond jack was a potential entry for a spade shift through declarer's king. West played his diamond queen. When South won with dummy's king, East had his entry card. Or, if declarer had ducked in the dummy, West would have continued with the diamond ace and his third diamond to avoid being endplayed.

Here, West could have won the first diamond with his ace and continued with the queen, but not if East had only jack-doubleton.

North 12-23-20
♠ 10 9
♥ K Q 9 7 2
♦ K 8 7 2
♣ J 2

West
♠ A Q 6 4 2
♥ J 3
♦ A Q 4
♣ Q 10 9

East
♠ 8 5 3
♥ 10 4
♦ J 9 6
♣ 8 7 6 5 3

South
♠ K J 7
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ 10 5 3
♣ A K 4

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
			Pass
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	2♠	Dbl.	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 3

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

				8		4	6	
3		6	5	4	9			
		1	7	2				
4	3		1	6				
	1	8		3		6	7	
				9	8		3	4
				1	4	9		
			9	7	3	8		6
	6	9		5				

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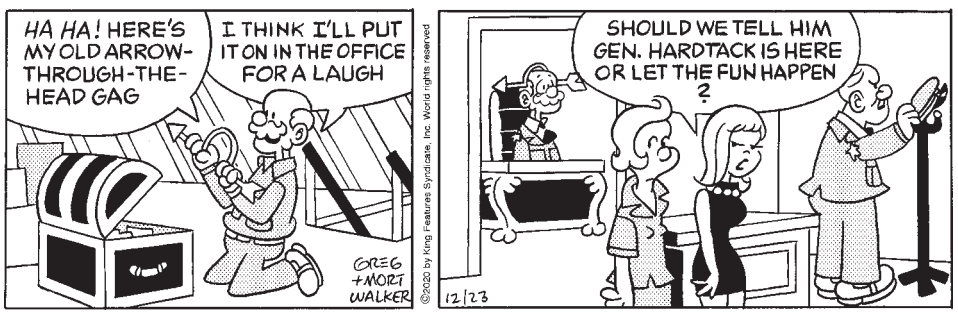
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	2	9	1	3	4	6	8	5
3	4	8	5	7	6	2	1	9
6	1	5	2	9	8	4	7	3
2	6	3	9	1	7	8	5	4
8	7	1	3	4	5	9	6	2
5	9	4	8	6	2	7	3	1
4	5	6	7	2	3	1	9	8
1	8	7	4	5	9	3	2	6
9	3	2	6	8	1	5	4	7

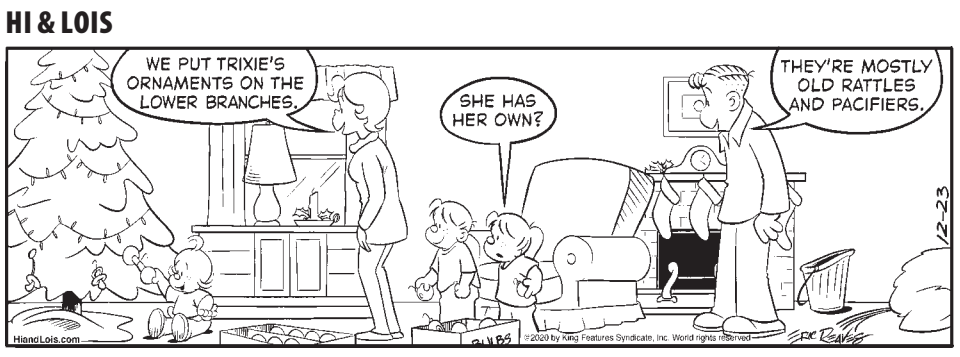
BEETLE BAILEY


HA HA! HERE'S MY OLD ARROW-THROUGH-THE-HEAD GAG
I THINK I'LL PUT IT ON IN THE OFFICE FOR A LAUGH
GREG + MORT WALKER
SHOULD WE TELL HIM GEN. HARDTACK IS HERE OR LET THE FUN HAPPEN ?
12/23

BLONDIE

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE ROAST BEEF AND ALL THROUGH THE FRIDGE...
...COLD CUTS WERE BEGGING: COME EAT JUST A SMIDGE!
LEAVE SOME FOR SANTA!
ABSOLUTELY!
12-23

HI & LOIS


WE PUT TRIXIE'S ORNAMENTS ON THE LOWER BRANCHES.
SHE HAS HER OWN?
THEY'RE MOSTLY OLD RATTLES AND PACIFIERS.
12-23
HiandLois.com

BC

THIS IS GONNA GET DANGEROUS. WE SHOULD SCRAM.
I LOVE PUTTING ON A SHOW FOR THEM.
LET'S SPLIT A KALE SALAD, MY TREAT.
JohnHartStudios.com
Dist. by Creators
12-23-20

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

CAN WE SET UP A ZOOM CALL LATER TODAY?
TAP TAP TAP
I PREFER A VOICE— ONLY CALL BECAUSE I'M NOT WEARING MAKEUP AT HOME.
HOW HIDEOUS DO YOU LOOK WITHOUT MAKEUP?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT FEDEX ASKED ME TO STOP ANSWERING THE DOOR IN PERSON.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
12-23-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

TODAY IS CHRISTMAS EVE-EVE...
THE EVE BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "HURRY UP AND GET HERE DAY"
JIM DAVIS 12-23
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

FORT KNOX

NORMAN LET ME BORROW HIS "AUTO-SANTA."
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT??
FOR SOME COLD CASH.
HE'S NOT WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU WILL DO WITH IT??
NO, HE KNOWS IT CAN'T PRODUCE SOMETHING AS BIG AS A TANK.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
SO I'M ASKING FOR IT IN PIECES.
12/23
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PICKLES

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW?
HOW COME WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHRISTMAS CAROLERS THIS YEAR?
YOU KNOW WHY.
YOU YELL AT THEM TO GET OFF YOUR LAWN AND TO STOP SINGING OFF KEY.
12/23
HEE HEE... YEAH, I MISS THAT.

FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES

WHOA! THAT'S A LOT OF GIFTS!
IT'S CHRISTMAS, DARRYL.
IT'S A MAGICAL TIME!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT..
I SEE ALL OF OUR MONEY VANISHING RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
BEAT IT. THIS IS A SCROOGE-FREE ZONE.

CURTIS

I WANT CHRISTMAS TO BE ESPECIALLY SPECIAL FOR THE BOYS THIS YEAR!
LISTEN TO BARRY'S LETTER TO SANTA
"DEAR SANTA, I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FOR CHRISTMAS EXCEPT A FOREVER AND EVER COVID CURE."
12-23
WE'LL MAKE IT SPECIAL, WON'T WE, MRS. CLAUS?
YES, WE WILL, MR. CLAUS!

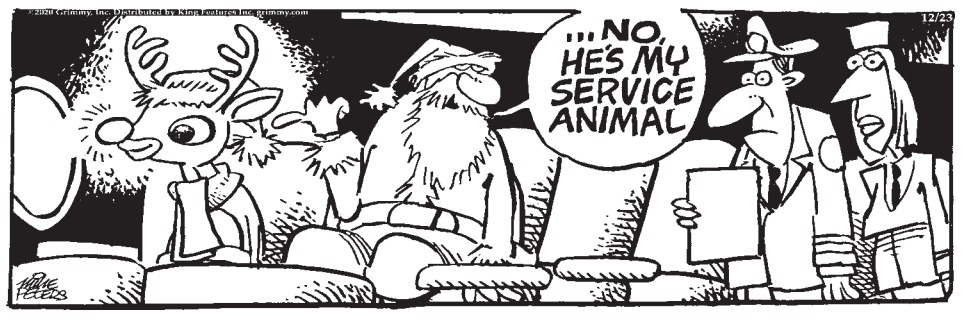
ZITS

HI, DAD.
WHOA! YOU HAVE--
'YEAH. I WAS WRAPPING GIFTS AND WISHED I HAD THREE MORE HANDS, AND POOF! I GOT 'EM.
INCREDIBLE!
HIGH TWENTY-FIVE!
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE FREAKING OUT??

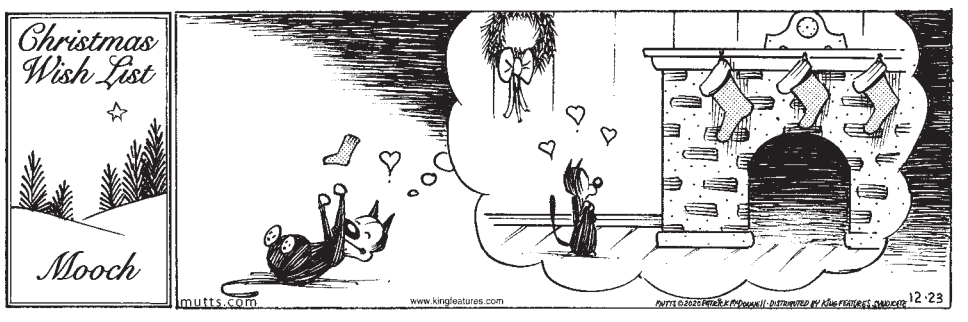
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

MAMA, WHEN DID YOU FIRST LEARN TO KNIT?
YEARS AGO...
12-23
WHEN I WAS DOING HARD TIME IN A SIBERIAN GULAG, I TAUGHT MYSELF TO KNIT WARM CLOTHES FOR ME AND MY CELLMATES!
GASP!
HA! GOT YA!
OH, MAMA!

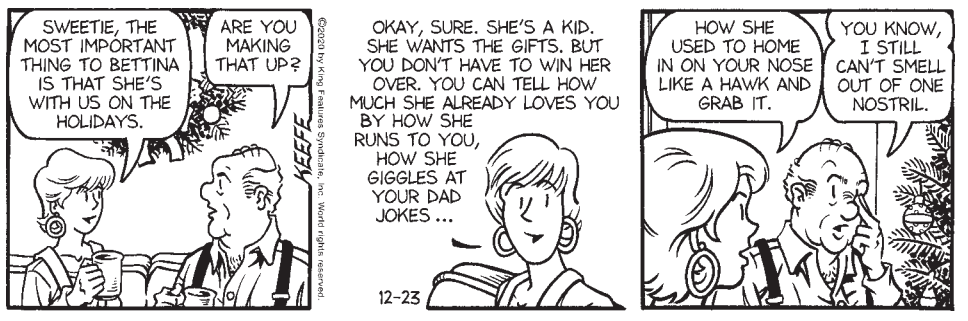
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH


SWEETIE, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO BETTINA IS THAT SHE'S WITH US ON THE HOLIDAYS.
ARE YOU MAKING THAT UP?
OKAY, SURE. SHE'S A KID. SHE WANTS THE GIFTS. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WIN HER OVER. YOU CAN TELL HOW MUCH SHE ALREADY LOVES YOU BY HOW SHE RUNS TO YOU, HOW SHE GIGGLES AT YOUR DAD JOKES ...
12-23
HOW SHE USED TO HOME IN ON YOUR NOSE LIKE A HAWK AND GRAB IT.
YOU KNOW, I STILL CAN'T SMELL OUT OF ONE NOSTRIL.

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Jane Ammeson
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Julie Swidwa
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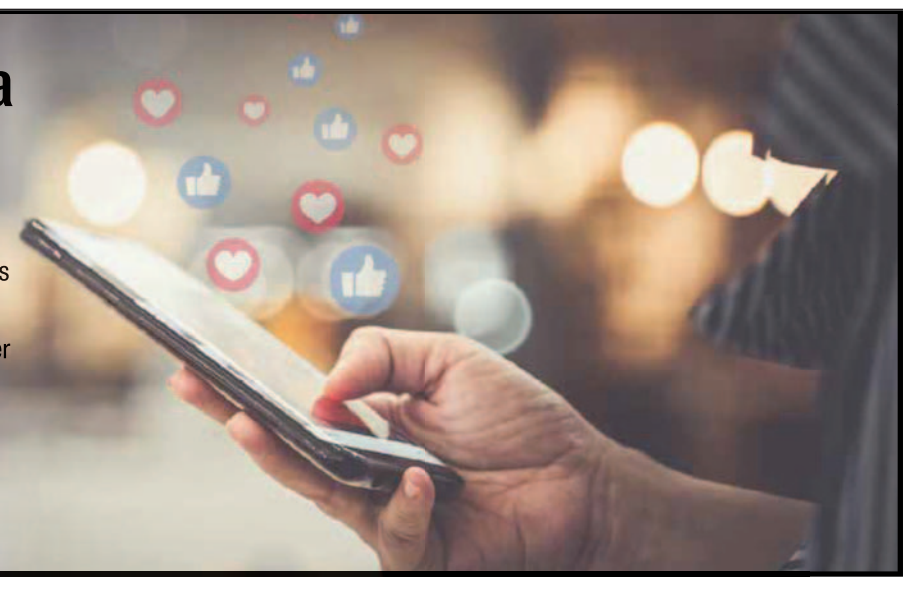
Ben Sanders
@HPBenSanders

Ben Spencer
@HPBenSpencer



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Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

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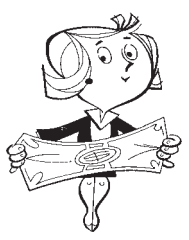
MAKE SOME MONEY



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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LEGALS

LEGALS

NOTICE OF FILING OF INTERAGENCY BANK MERGER APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Edgewater Bank, a Michigan-chartered bank headquartered at 321 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085, has filed an Interagency Bank Merger Act Application (the "Application") with the Chicago Regional Office of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") seeking approval of the transfer of substantially all the assets and substantially all the liabilities (including all deposit liabilities) of Edgewater Bank to United Federal Credit Union, headquartered at 2819 South State Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085, which will be the survivor of the transaction.

It is contemplated that all offices of the above-named institutions will continue to be operated by United Federal Credit Union immediately following the proposed transaction, (with the exception of Edgewater Bank's branch located at 720 East Front Street, Suite B, Buchanan, MI 49107, which will be closed.

Any person wishing to comment on this Application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the FDIC at its Regional Office, 300 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60606, not later than December 28, 2020. The nonconfidential portions of the Application are on file at the Regional Office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the Application file will be made available upon request.

Notice of Public Comment Period: Pokagon Band TAS for CWA 319

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi (Pokagon Band) is opening a 30-day public comment period for its application to the Environmental Protection Agency for treatment in a similar manner as a state (TAS) for Clean Water Act (CWA) 319. Receiving TAS for CWA 319 will allow Pokagon Band to expand its nonpoint source (NPS) pollution program. The Pokagon Band will manage known NPS pollution locations on tribal trust lands and expand partnerships with local and state agencies with the NPS program.
The public comment period will begin on December 28th, 2020 and end on January 28th, 2021. Documents are available for review on the Pokagon Band's website (http://www.pokagon-band-nsn.gov/cwa-319-application-open-comment-period-dnr), and hardcopies are available upon request or via appointment at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Department of Natural Resources office. Comments can be submitted through the Pokagon Band's website or emailed to Grants@Pokagon Band-nsn.gov

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To Apply: Contact Bruce
btheisen@heraldpalladium.com
269-429-2400 ext. 553

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mccoy Brother's Jewelers will resume business when the vaccine arrives and is administered to the public at large. Hang in there, folks.
Mccoy Brother's will reopen at that time, for the final run, of about one year.

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23
Relax and don't overreact. Look at the consequences before leaping into something. Put more time and effort into personal improvement, instead of trying to change others. Mull over your options and make the necessary preparations to indulge in something you feel compelled to do. Take your time and do things right the first time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Keep the peace at home and when dealing with friends and relatives. It's better to observe and be objective when others decide to share opinions. Focus on improving your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Keep the momentum flowing. Refuse to let outside influences slow you down or cause uncertainty. Look for opportunities; you will meet individuals who can help you bring about positive change.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Be a leader, not a follower. Set the standard, follow your heart and do what you do best. An offer looks promising. Don't let an emotional situation slow you down.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Refuse to get involved in someone's dilemma. You have enough to do without taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Less talk and more action will help you reach your objective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Be precise, and pay close attention to detail. Don't jump into something that has too many variables. Leave no room for mistakes or indiscretions. Play by the rules, and avoid those who don't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be open to suggestions and willing to try something new, but don't get carried away. Someone you least expect will disappoint you. If you want something done, do it yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Emotions will surface, and anger will set in if you aren't careful. Take a positive approach when dealing with partners, and be willing to meet people halfway. Take care of unfinished business.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Uncertainty regarding your reputation, position or status will leave you in a quandary. When in doubt, sit tight and let things unfold naturally. Pay more attention to self-improvement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Take the initiative, and make things happen. It's up to you to lay the groundwork. Don't take risks with your or someone else's health. Abide by the rules, and focus on what you can do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Be careful what you spend your money on, and protect your possessions, passwords and documents. Look at all the alternatives, and make changes that lead to a less stressful lifestyle. Romance is in the stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You need to chill out, contemplate what's next and refuse to let others dictate what you can do. Use your imagination, consider what makes you happy and move forward with a good plan.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Reach out, touch base with people you miss and spread a little joy to the folks you love. Make plans that will give you something to look forward to when the time is right.

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #
No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.
(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
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49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER E N V E L O P E addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
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If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses
You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

Employment Advertisers Who Wish to Remain Anonymous
To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges
Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
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$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
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The Herald-Palladium

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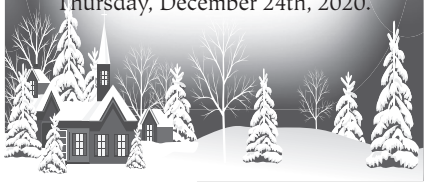
Happy Holidays

In order to allow our employees time with their families for the Christmas holiday, our call center will be closing at 12:00pm (Noon) on Christmas Eve, December 24th. We will be closed on Christmas Day. We will reopen at 9:00am on Monday, December 28th, 2020.

The following deadlines for placing a Classified Liner is as follows:
To publish on Saturday, December 26th, 2020 the deadline is 11:00am on Thursday, December 24th, 2020.



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hp FOOD & HEALTH

An assortment of German cookie recipes

Jane Ammeson

I can't travel to Chicago right now to shop for the holidays because of the pandemic, but I did recently manage a trip to southwest Germany to visit several Christkindlesmarkt (Christmas markets) and take a cooking class.

Well, kind of.

It was a virtual cooking class. I've been doing a lot of those lately. It's nowhere close to the same as being there, but it's a great way to explore and plan for the time when I can journey again.

Southwest Germany is comprised, for the most part, of Baden-Württemberg. It encompasses the Black Forest, large cities like Heidelberg, Baden-Baden and Stuttgart, and a plethora of beautiful towns and villages.

One thing you quickly realize about Germany is that almost every village, no matter how small, has a castle. Abbeys dating back a millennium are common. New, to them, is anything built less than 400 years ago.

Before COVID-19, late November and December was the time for the fantastic Christmas markets that have been part of the German holiday season since the 1300s.

Of course, this being the age of COVID-19, not only was my cooking class virtual, but so were my visits to Christmas markets. One plus: I save a lot of money by not being able to shop.

Between military moves with her husband, dietitian/author Wendy Jo Peterson racked up a lot of miles working with children and adults – from special needs to elite athletes.

She's taught at hospitals, worked the computer and presented the latest in nutritional science. When she lived in Stuttgart, Peterson immersed herself in cooking traditions and techniques, and brought all that to our virtual classroom.

We could either cook with Peterson or just watch. I decided to cook along with her.

To save time, Peterson prepared her dough ahead of the class, and so did those of us who decided to cook with her.

Our first cookie was yeast dough shaped into the form of a little tan man, known as Dambedei.

The cookie is instantly recognizable to children – and adults – because of his characteristic appearances. All little tan men have a pointed head, raisin eyes, almond mouth and a button jacket made of nuts.

"The other cookies we'll be making are Spitzbuben, also known as Hildabrötchen, which are named after the Grand Duchess Hilda von Nassau, the last grand duchess of Baden," Peterson said. "Supposedly, the popular grand duchess enjoyed eating Hilda rolls and often baked them herself.

We also made Hutzelbrot. If we were in Germany, we'd have used dried Hutzel pears, but alas I had to use the dried pears sold in the grocery store.

We also had recipes for Springerle and Lebkuchen. So if I do all the cooking, I'll have a great assortment of German cookies.

Photo provided / Corinna Spitzbarth

Dambedei are formed before baking.

Photo provided

Spitzbuben, or Hildabrötchen, are shortbread cookies that feature a jam center.

Spitzbuben or Hildabrötchen

(Shortbread cookie with jam)

1 cup sugar
2/3 cup cold butter, cut into small pieces
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 egg
1 1/3 cups flour
1/2 cup raspberry jam
1 tablespoon powdered sugar

Cream together the sugar and butter. Add the vanilla extract and egg until combined. Add the flour to form a dough.

Shape the dough into a ball, and wrap or cover well and put in the fridge for about an hour.

Heat an oven to 325 degrees. Line a tray with parchment paper.

Roll out the dough very thinly, and cut into circles. Then, cut out the shape you'd like in the center of every other cookie. Place on the baking tray, and bake until golden, about 15 minutes. Cool.

Heat the jam, spread over the cookies without cutouts, then place the cutout half on top of the cookie with the jam. Dust with powdered sugar.

Springerle

(Anise-flavored cookie)

4 eggs
2 1/4 cups powdered sugar
2 1/4 cup white wheat flour
1 tablespoon whole anise seed, or substitute ginger, gingerbread or cardamom

Lightly toast the anise beforehand in a pan, and then mix it into the batter. This treatment dissolves the essential oils and unfolds its full taste.

All ingredients are placed in a warm room for several hours before starting.

Beat the eggs until frothy, then add the sifted powdered sugar and the tablespoon of anise seed.

Stir this mixture in the food processor for at least 10 minutes.

Then stir in the sifted flour, one tablespoon at a time.

The dough is now a bit soft and needs to rest to have time to shape.

Put the dough in a bowl with a tightly fitting lid and covered with cling wrap, leave to rest in the refrigerator for at least 12-24 hours.

When you are ready to make cookies, cut off a small portion of the dough and immediately cover the rest of the dough again, otherwise it will dry out.

Roll out the dough on a floured baking board to about 1/3 inch thickness.

Press the springerle mold into the lightly powdered dough, and cut out the springerle with a dough scraper, pastry wheel or a cookie cutter.

Place the springerle on a baking sheet covered with aluminum foil, and leave to dry for 24 hours in a warm place.

Heat an oven to 285 degrees, and bake the springerle for about 15-18 minutes.

After baking, let it cool, remove from the aluminum foil and store in a cardboard box in a damp place.

Hutzelbrot

(German fruit and nut bread)

2/3 cup dried pears
2/3 cup dried plums
2/3 cup dried figs
1/4 cup dried apricots
1/2 cup raisins
1 1/3 cup chopped hazelnuts or chopped almonds
1 tablespoon anise seeds
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 1/2 cups rye flour
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
5 teaspoons baking powder
6 eggs
1 cup sugar
2 to 4 teaspoons vanilla extract

Soak the dried plums, pears and figs in water overnight, or 8-12 hours.

Drain the fruit, and roughly chop it. Finely dice the dried apricots. Put all the fruit with raisins and hazelnuts in a bowl. Season with anise seeds, cinnamon and cloves, drizzle with lemon juice, and mix well.

Mix the flours with the baking powder.

Beat the eggs with the sugar until frothy. Add the vanilla, and the fruit-nut mixture. Gradually knead in the flour mixture, and knead the mixture well.

Shape the dough into two loaves of bread. Place on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 70-80 minutes.

After baking, let cool on a wire rack.

Dambedei

(Person-shaped sweet yeast bread)

1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
Lemon zest
1 cup milk
2 tablespoons honey
1 (2 1/4-teaspoon) packet active dry yeast
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons canola oil
1 egg yolk
Raisins

Mix flour with lemon zest in a bowl.

Warm the milk slightly, add honey and fresh yeast, and stir. Add vanilla to the milk, and add, along with the canola oil to the flour. Mix to form a soft dough, about 5 minutes. Let the dough rise to double its volume in a warm place, knead again by hand and roll out to 1/3-inch thickness.

Cut out 4 dambedei, each 8 inches long. Place on two baking sheets lined with baking paper, and brush with the egg yolk. Press the raisins into the dough as eyes and jacket buttons.

Bake for approximately 12 minutes at 395 degrees.

Lebkuchen

(Honey-sweetened gingerbread cookies)

3/4 cup honey
2 cups cane sugar
1 cup orange candied peel
3/4 cup lemon candied peel
2/3 cup raisins
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons hazelnuts, chopped
5 cups whole meal rye flour
2 1/2 cups whole meal spelt flour (can substitute whole wheat flour)
2 teaspoons baking soda
4 to 5 teaspoons gingerbread spice
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground cloves
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
4 large eggs
6 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon butter, softened
Juice and zest of one lemon
2 egg yolks (for painting)
3 tablespoons milk (for painting)
Whole almonds, peeled (for decorating)

The day before, heat the honey and cane sugar in a saucepan while stirring. Finely chop the orange peel, lemon peel, raisins and hazelnuts.

Mix the rye and whole meal spelt flour, baking soda, gingerbread spice, cinnamon, ground cloves, cocoa powder and the finely chopped orange peel, lemon peel, raisins, and hazelnuts in a bowl.

Knead the heated honey with cane sugar, eggs, softened butter, lemon zest and lemon juice with the flour mixture until it is a very firm, brown dough.

Shape the dough into an elongated roll, and let rest in a cold room overnight, in an airtight container.

Heat an oven to 320 degrees, and line a baking sheet with baking paper.

Knead the dough well, roll it out on a floured work surface to approximately 1/4-inch thick. Cut out the gingerbread, and place on the prepared baking sheet.

Mix the egg yolk and milk, and brush the gingerbread cookies with the mixture. Decorate with an almond, and bake in the oven for about 15 minutes.

Place the baked gingerbread cookies on a wire rack to cool, then store in a tin or container. The longer they are stored, for approximately one to two weeks, the better they are.

A note on last week's column

Susie Schroeder sent me a text about the recipe for Mickey Pretzels that I ran last week. She thinks there should be another 1 1/2 cups water in the recipe.

I checked the cookbook, and the amounts published in the paper are exactly as they're listed in the book.

I've known Susie for a long time, and if she thinks it needs more water, than it needs more water.

I really hope that hasn't been a problem for anyone.

Jane Ammeson can be contacted via email at janeammeson@gmail.com or by writing to Focus, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

BREAKFASTS AND BANQUETS

Burgers: American Legion Post 518, 4789 Weechik Road, New Troy, will have a hamburger night from 5-8 p.m. today. Cost is $5 for a burger, fries and salad. Cost is $6.50 for a burger, onion rings and salad. All orders are carryout. Order upon arrival, or call ahead at 426-3542.

Breakfasts and Banquets appears on Wednesdays. The deadline is the preceding Wednesday at noon. Civic groups sponsoring fundraising meals, classes or other food-related events should send information in writing to: Focus, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; or email focus@TheHP.com.

BLOOD DRIVES

Versiti Blood Center of Michigan

Noon-7 p.m. today, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

Noon-5 p.m. Monday, Lakeland Hospital, Watervliet, classroom B, 400 Medical Park Drive.

1-6 p.m. Monday, The Wellness Center, conference room, 950 S. Bailey Ave., South Haven.

1-6 p.m. Tuesday, VFW, dance floor, 560 N. Phelps St., Decatur.

Noon-7 p.m. Dec. 30, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

American Red Cross

Noon-5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Pleasant View Church of Christ, 60550 Crooked Creek Road, Cassopolis.

Noon-5:45 p.m. Tuesday, St. Basil Catholic Church, 513 Monroe Blvd., South Haven.